

## "A dream attained ... A dream which remains"

### JACL PSWD 1998 Awards Dinner commemorates the success and future of redress

BY TRACY UBA  
Writer/Reporter

TORRANCE, Calif.—"We gave a gift to this country, a gift of education, a lesson about civil rights, about justice, about atonement for mistakes. We gave America the strength to apologize, and in so doing we made

America a better country. In the process, we transformed our community ... We are no longer victims but active participants in our own destinies."

As the keynote speaker for the JACL Pacific Southwest District's 1998 Awards Dinner on Sept. 19 at the Torrance Hilton, Dale Minami spoke eloquently

before some of the most prominent figures and organizations in the Japanese American community, all gathered to commemorate the end of an historic and bittersweet chapter in the struggle for redress.

A San Francisco attorney, and

See PSW/page 5



Award recipients and presenters at the JACL Pacific Southwest District's 1998 Awards Dinner included, from left, front: Manabi Hirasaki, George Aratani, Harry Kawahara, Clarence Nishizu, Harry Kajihara and Masaaki Hironaka; back: David Kawamoto, Mary Ogawa (wife of the late George Ogawa), Helen Kawagoe, Frank Buckley, Linda Hara, Phil Shigekuni, Richard Katsuda and Dale Minami.

## Martha Nakagawa named new P.C. assistant editor

The Pacific Citizen newspaper announced recently that Martha Nakagawa has been hired as the new assistant editor.

Nakagawa brings much experience to the paper having worked as a staff writer for the Los Angeles-based, daily Japanese American newspaper, *Rafu Shimpo*, for the past four years and before that as a contributing editor of San Francisco-based *Astanuweek*.

The staff at P.C. welcomes Nakagawa and looks forward to working with her. ■



## Senator Inouye seeks record-setting sixth term

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI  
Executive Editor

WASHINGTON—It's been close to 40 years now since Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) first broke out onto the political scene with his historic election to the United States House of Representatives, but at the age of 74, he is still the godfather of Hawaii's political scene.

Today, his popularity has been surpassed by few, and as he seeks to enter his record-setting sixth term as a senator for Hawaii, Inouye's approval ratings continue to amaze, recently garnering a whopping 88.6 percent of the Democratic votes in the state's primary elections, an approval rating even President Clinton hasn't managed.

Recently, as the rest of Washington, D.C., was occupied by the soap-opera drama of the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal, Sen. Inouye sat down with the Pacific Citizen to reflect back on his years in office and to look forward to the pressing issues of his next six-year term. His only on-the-record comment

See INOUE/page 4



## Clinton's race initiative panel submits report

STAFF REPORT

On September 18, Bill Clinton's seven-member advisory board, appointed 15 months ago to discuss race relations, shifting demographics and changing racial attitudes on a national tour, submitted its final report, "One America in the 21st Century: Forging a New Future," to the president.

In it, the panel, which included one Asian American, Los Angeles civil rights attorney Angela Oh, encouraged continued dialogue on race issues and the establishment of a new permanent race relations council. It also called for a "multimedia" awareness campaign to better educate Americans about how racial prejudice and inequality have been historically institutionalized through the notion of "White privilege."

"We as a nation need to understand that Whites tend to benefit, either unknowingly or consciously, from this country's history of White privilege," the report

stated.

Though Clinton supported the idea of continued education on race, he couldn't offer an immediate endorsement of his proposals. The president had initially unveiled plans for a task force in his commencement speech at the University of California at San Diego in June, 1997. Though hailed as a well-intentioned concept, the effort faced several problems from the get-go due, in part, to inadequate time to prepare and an unstructured agenda.

First, the two candidates that Clinton and his staff approached to head the commission turned the position down. Finally, Judith A. Winston, a former Education Department official who is active in civil rights, agreed to organize the board as its executive director.

Then, at its first meeting, the panel encountered some division among its members as to what

See RACE/page 10

## Gov. Wilson signs AB 1915 — Creates Calif. civil liberties public education grant program

On Sept. 18, Gov. Pete Wilson (R-Calif.) signed into law legislation which would create a California civil liberties public education grant program. The legislation was sponsored by Assembly member Mike Honda (D-San Jose).

Enactment of this legislation will effectively continue the work initiated by the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, a federal project educating the public on the lessons learned from the incarceration which was authorized by Congress in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. It is anticipated that other organizations and community groups will use the Honda legislation as a model and pursue similar legislation in other states.

The major provisions of the legislation:

- Requires the state librarian to administer the grant program.
- Authorizes the state librarian to contract with independent review panels and to establish an advisory panel to evaluate and make recommendations to the state librarian based on the grant applications.
- Appropriates \$1 million from the state budget to create and fund the California civil liberties public education grant program for the 1998-99 year.
- Includes legislative intent to fund the program for three years. This means that the total funding available for the program will

See AB 1915/page 7

## The Color of Money — New report finds minorities marginalized in campaign finance system

BY TRACY UBA  
Writer/Reporter

WASHINGTON—A report released recently, entitled *The Color of Money: Campaign Contributions and Race*, reveals that financing of federal elections comes less out of the pockets of minorities than it does from white Americans, which puts people of color at a distinct political disadvantage.

The state-by-state study, conducted by Public Campaign, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization which works for federal and grassroots campaign finance reform, is especially disturbing considering that monetary contribution is one of the most influential factors in steering the outcome of

an election and thus affecting policy and lawmaking.

In 1996, for instance, 92 percent of the House races and 88 percent of the Senate races were won by the candidates, both Democrat and Republican, who spent the most money.

The report paints quite a different portrait especially for Asian Pacific Americans, several of whom have been unfairly scrutinized and mistakenly targeted in the media in the last two or three years over scandals involving illegal campaign financing at the highest levels of government.

"We wanted to confirm what we knew was intuitively clear, which is that people who cannot afford to give money to campaigns are politically disenfranchised from the process today," said Jodie Silverman, Public Campaign's Director of Communications, of the study's not-surprising results.

"We had a feeling that there are quite a few people of color who, because they don't have as much money or as much disposable income, were therefore being unfairly disadvantaged by a political system that is so dependent on money."

Obtaining data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Center for Responsive Politics, *The Color of Money* provides an analysis of all 50 states, comparing higher giving zip codes with less or non-giving ones. The findings disclose

See REPORT/page 10

### Inside the P.C.

Calendar	page 2
Announcements	2
Features	3
Community/National News	
JACL News	
From the Frying Pan	
Troubled in Paradise	
A Bridge Across the Pacific	
View From Young	
Message	
To the Editor	

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: JACL National Headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115

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SUNNYVALE CA 94086-3906

# Pacific Citizen

7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755  
Tel: 323/725-0083, 800/966-6157, Fax: 323/725-0064  
E-mail: Paccit@aol.com

**Executive Editor:** Caroline Y. Aoyagi  
**Assistant Editor:** Martha Nakagawa  
**Editor Emeritus/Archivist:** Harry K. Honda  
**Office Manager:** Brian Tanaka  
**Copy Editors:** Margot Brunswick, Mene Kara  
**Writers/Reporters:** Mika Tanner, Tracy Uba

**Special contributors:** Patricia Arra, Allan Beekman, Toko Fujii, S. Ruth Y. Hashimoto, Bob Hirata, Ada Hofida, Mas Imon, Mike Iseri, Naomi Kashiwabara, Bill Kashiwagi, William Marumoto, Etsu Masaoka, Bill Matsumoto, Fred Oshima, Ed Suguro, George Wakiji, Jim Lew

**Publisher:** Japanese American Citizens League (founded 1929) 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115, tel: 415/921-5225 fax: 415/931-4671  
**JACL President:** Helen Kawagoe, **National Director:** Herbert Yamanishi  
**Pacific Citizen Board of Directors:** Rick Uno, chairperson; Clyde Nishimura, EDC; Patricia Ikeda Carper, MDC; Deborah Ikeda, CCDC; Kimi Yoshino, NCWNPDC; Don Maekawa, PNWDC; Silvana Watanabe, IDC; Gil Asakawa, MPDC

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© 1998 (ISSN: 0030-8579) PACIFIC CITIZEN is published semi-monthly except once in December. OFFICE HOURS — Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Pacific Time. Annual subscription rates: JACL MEMBERS: \$12 of the national dues provide one year on a one-per-household basis. NON-MEMBERS: 1 year-\$30, 2 years-\$55, 3 years-\$80, payable in advance. Additional postage per year — Foreign periodical rate \$22; First Class for U.S., Canada, Mexico: \$30; Airmail to Japan/Europe: \$60. (Subject to change without notice.) Periodical postage paid at Monterey Park, Calif., and at additional mailing offices.  
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## JACL MEMBERS

### Change of Address

If you have moved, please send information to:

**National JACL**

1765 Sutter St.

San Francisco, CA 94115

Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in receiving your P.C., please notify your postmaster to include periodicals in your change of address (USPS Form 3575)

## Holiday Issue kits have been mailed

Deadline for submitting ads for the Holiday Issue is November 25. Please mail your chapter ads promptly so that your chapter is well represented. If you have any questions please call Brian Tanaka at 800/966-6157.



## P.C. SAVE

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Here's my contribution to support the needs of the P.C. and its efforts to return to a weekly publication! (Please send your tax deductible donations to: P.C. SAVE, 7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755.)

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## JACL Calendar

### Eastern

**DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Sat. Nov. 7—Quarterly Meeting, JAA Center, 15 W. 44th, 11th Fl., N.Y.C.  
**NEW YORK**  
Sat. Nov. 7—New York Chapter Annual Fall Dinner and Installation, the Manhattan Club, 7th Ave. & 52nd St. RSVP: Lillian Kimura, 973/680-1441. Keynote speaker, author and fencing champion Peter Westbrook.

### Midwest

**DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Fri.-Sun., Oct. 23-25—Fall Meeting, Radisson Inn, 7230 Engle Rd., Middleburg Hts.; Fri. Eve reception, Sat. a.m. business meeting, Sat. afternoon workshop. Info: Bill Yoshino, 773/728-7170.  
**CINCINNATI**  
Sun. Oct. 18—JWA/JACL reunion luncheon, 1 p.m., Best Western Springfield off Rte 4. RSVP, info: Tokie Wade, 513/553-2045.

### NC-WN-Pacific

**DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Sun. Nov. 1—District Council Meeting, Gilroy.  
**BERKELEY**  
Thu. Oct. 15—The Berkeley Chapter Civil Rights Committee sponsors "An Evening of Aloha; Protect Hawaii's Constitution Against Anti-Gay Attacks"; 6-8 p.m., Yank Sing Restaurant, 49 Stevenson St. Info: Helen Zia, 510/658-8556. Authors Al and Jane Nakatani, Dr. Jackie

Young, men's hula, comedy acts, light refreshments.  
**CONTRA COSTA**  
Sat. Nov. 7—Kids Cultural Day, 1-4 p.m., East Bay Free Methodist Church, 5395 Potrero Ave., El Cerrito. Info: Jim Oshima, 510/237-0323, Kaz Ide, 510/222-2421.  
**FLORIN**  
Sun. Oct. 4—Annual scholarship fund-raising spaghetti dinner and bingo night. Info: James Abe, 916/363-1520.  
**PLACER COUNTY**  
Sat. Oct. 24—70th Anniversary Goodwill Dinner; social hour 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m., Buddhist Church in Penryn. Tickets, info: Linda Dickerson, 530/889-7213. Speaker, Stuart Satow (Channel 10); honoring founder Harry Kawahata & past chapter presidents.  
**SAN FRANCISCO**  
Sat.-Sun., Oct. 10-11—Special performance supported by the chapter: *Uncle Gunjiro's Girlfriend* by Brenda Aoki Wong, Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 3 p.m., Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. nr. 3rd. Info: Chapter Message Center, 415/273-1015. About the first documented Japanese-Caucasian marriage in the U.S.; sponsored by Hapa Issues Forum.  
Through Nov. 7—Linda Pauling Exhibit, co-sponsored by the chapter; Herbst International Exhibition Hall, Main Post in the Presidio. Info, times, tours: 415/255-4687.  
**SAN JOSE**  
Sat. Oct. 10—San Jose Chapter's 75th Anniversary Celebration, 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, San Jose Hyatt Airport Hotel. Info: Jeff Yoshioka, 408/879-0800, Judy Nizawa, 408/

733-7692 or 650/329-3867, JACL office, 408/295-1250. Keynote speaker Dale Minami; slide showing, '50s thru '90s dance music by System 9.

### Central California

**DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Sat. Oct. 24—Fourth Quarter Meeting. Info: Patricia Tsai Tom, 209/486-8815.  
**FRESNO**  
Sat. Nov. 14—CCDC Health Fair and Installation Banquet, Doubletree Hotel, Downtown Fresno. Info: Patricia Tsai Tom, 209/486-8815.

### Pacific Southwest

**ARIZONA**  
Thu. Oct. 8—Arizona Chapter co-sponsors Asian American Business Expo; see Community Calendar.  
Sun. Oct. 11—Recognition Banquet; 5 p.m., China Doll Restaurant, 3336 N. 7th Ave., Phoenix. RSVP by Oct. 7: Hoty Miyachiko, 602/939-0117, or Helen Y. Tanita, 602/944-2050. Honoring John S. Hirohata, Bill Kajikawa, Tsutomu Ikeda, Henry Takemon.  
**LAS VEGAS**  
Sat. Oct. 10—Lake Mead cruise buffet; 10 a.m.-noon. Info: Rhsa, 702/254-8060.  
**VENTURA COUNTY**  
Sun. Oct. 22—Japanese Cultural Heritage Day, 3-6 p.m.; see Community Calendar. ■

**DEADLINE FOR CALENDAR** is the Friday before date of issue, on a space-available basis.

Please provide the time and place of the event, and name and phone number (including area code) of a contact person.

## COMMUNITY Calendar

### East Coast

**NEW YORK**  
Sat. Oct. 17—Program, "Bravery in Battle: The Nisei GI"; 1-3 p.m., Ellis Island Immigration Museum 3rd Floor Conference Room. Info: 212/952-0774. Speakers, Kaz Yamaguchi (MIS), others.  
Through 1999—Japanese American National Museum's exhibit, "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience," Ellis Island Immigration Museum, New York City. Info: JANM (Los Angeles) 310/625-0414, (New York) 212/952-0774. Free admission.

### The Midwest

**ST. LOUIS**  
Sun. Oct. 18—Oral history presentation, "St. Louis Nisei: Being Japanese American During World War II," 1-3 p.m., Library Board Room, 1st Fl., Maryville University, 13350 Conway Rd. Presenter, Henry Mizuki.

### The Northwest

**SEATTLE**  
Through Oct. 18—Exhibit, "Planting Seeds with Alan Lau," Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 7th Ave. S. Info: 206/623-5124x114.

### Northern Cal

**FREMONT**  
Fri. Oct. 16—Bingo. Info: Frank Nakasako, Fremont JACL, 510/656-1722. To volunteer, call Eleanor Toi, 510/656-5449.

**OAKLAND**  
Mon. Oct. 5—Lecture, "Asian American Studies and the Coming Multicultural Millennium," 7 p.m., Mills College Concert Hall, 5000 MacArthur Blvd. Ronald Takaki, speaker. Free.  
**RICHMOND**  
Through Oct. 10—Exhibit, "Remi-

niscing in Swingtime, Japanese Americans in American Popular Music," Seaver Gallery, Richmond Museum of History, 400 Nevin Ave. Info: 510/235-7387. Based on the book by George Yoshida.  
Sat. Oct. 17—Health Matters III, "Our Youth in the Age of Stress and Distress," 9:30a.m.-2:30 p.m. Student Union Fireside Room, Contra Costa College, 2600 Mission Bell Road, San Pablo. Info: June Kodani, 510/548-4104. Free to JACL members and guests.  
**SAN JOSE**  
Sat. Oct. 3—Easy Company Northern Calif. planning meeting to form a "Sons & Daughters" support group for the 100th/442nd/MIS and all veterans; Yu Ai Kai Bldg., 588 N. 4th St. Info: John Togashi, Secretary, 650/321-9350. All interested are welcome.

### Central Cal

**FRESNO**  
Sat. Oct. 17—"Myths and Realities of Cancer Care ... or, Yes, You can Survive Cancer Therapy," talk by the author of *Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy Survival Guide*, 9:30-11 a.m., Fresno Buddhist Church, 1340 Kern St. Info: 916/434-1070 or 322-8090.  
Fri.-Sun., Oct. 16-18—Jerome and Denson High School Reunion, Double Tree Hotel, 1055 Van Ness Ave. Info: Shigeo Masuda Okajima, 209/875-3878; Miyoko Kunitake Kawamura, 714/961-1249; Shiro Tahara, 916/428-0494.

**Southern Cal**  
**LOS ANGELES**  
Fri.-Sun., Oct. 16-18—Jerome Relocation Reunion, bus to Doubletree Hotel in Fresno, boarding at 10 a.m., New Gardena Hotel, 1641 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., Gardena. Info: Sam Mibu, 310/532-9730, Bob Nakashima, 714/638-8890, Miyo Kawamura, 714/961-1249; New Gardena Hotel, 310/327-5757, parking \$2/night.

**VENTURA COUNTY**

Sun. Oct. 11—Festival of Japanese Cultural Arts, 3-6 p.m., Camarillo Community Center, 1605 E. Burnley St. Info: 805/655-5030; Japanese & Okinawan dance; taiko, karate, tea ceremony, bonsai, kimekomi dolls, sumi-e brush painting, ikebana, origami, food tasting, etc.

### Arizona-Nevada

**LAS VEGAS**  
Sun.-Wed., Oct. 4-7—Amache Reunion, Union Plaza Hotel Casino. Info: Las Vegas-Bill Hidaka, 702/451-9408;  
Sun.-Thu., Oct. 18-22—100/442/MIS/1399th Engineers mini reunion, California Hotel. Info: Ben Tagami, 310/327-4193.

**LAUGHLIN**  
Mon.-Wed., Oct. 12-14—Poston I Class Reunion, Riverside Resort. Info: Momita Moringa, 714/827-6555; Sets Kobata Shinto, 323/721-1387; Haru Ito Watanabe, 310/327-2596. Side trip to Poston Memorial; buses available.

**PHOENIX**  
Thu. Oct. 8—Asian American Business Expo, 4-9 p.m., Phoenix Civic Plaza Ballroom South, 3rd & Jefferson. RSVP encouraged: 602/534-7000. Free. ■

## NOTICE

JACL is now a member of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). When someone representing the CFC asks you for your payroll deduction or donation to the CFC, remember that you can now designate the JACL as a recipient for your contribution. The JACL is the only Asian-Pacific American organization in the CFC dedicated to service in the United States.

Contributions to JACL will help assist its chapters and further its mission as a civil and human rights organization.

## Small kid time



## Gwen Muranaka

# NJAMF kickoff in Central Calif. attracts 150

**CAROLINE AOYAGI**  
Executive Editor

FRESNO, Calif.—With only one year left in their campaign to raise \$8.6 million, the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation is still just under the half-way point.

In the next 12 months the foundation will have to raise \$4.6 million if a memorial to patriotism, honoring the loyalty and bravery of Japanese Americans during and after World War II, is to be built on federal land in Washington D.C.

It's a formidable task, but it's a task the foundation is confident they will accomplish.

"There's no question we're going to make it," said Chairman of the NJAMF's board, Melvin Chiogioji, at a foundation kick-off dinner-reception for the Central California region on September 23. "People are getting enthusiastic. [They] realize we have to make this thing go. Can you imagine the embarrassment if we don't make it?"

It was shortly after redress became a reality that on October 24, 1992, then-President George Bush signed a law authorizing construction of a National JA Memorial in the nation's capital. The community was given until the fall of 1999 to raise the necessary funds to begin construction, and to that end, the NJAMF, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, has been campaigning nationally.

With its purpose of telling the story of the history of JAs in America, the monument will trace the footsteps of the first immigration wave, relive the legacy of the internment and the heroics of the JA soldiers, and highlight

the triumph of redress. The site chosen for the monument is a triangular piece of federal land bordered by Louisiana Avenue, New Jersey Avenue, and D Street; a location in a high-volume tourist area, just minutes from the United States Capitol and Union Sta-

tion. "The real essence [of this memorial] is not the glorification of JAs but to ensure that the atrocity that happened in WWII never happens again," explained Chiogioji, referring to the forced incarceration of 120,000 JAs during the duration of the war, most of them United States citizens. "We want the memorial to say to the American people: an atrocity

happened and let's make sure that it never happens again." "It's such a remarkable story, what our fathers, the Nisei, went through, and it should not be forgotten," said Bob Sakata, a NJAMF board member and former WWII internee at the Topaz,

ington Memorial."

Venturing into the Central California region for the first time, the NJAMF received a warm reception with 150 people attending the dinner-reception sponsored by the JACL Central California District Council and the

member of both the NJAMF board and the Central California Campaign Committee. "Central California was one of the first places the Issei came; as the first immigrants they had hardships and they had to struggle. That's why it's important as their descendants, and that's why the monument means a lot."

Like the historic redress movement, the interest in the monument has caught the attention and the energy of the younger Sansei and Yonsei generations, members who sit on both the NJAMF and local Central Calif. Campaign boards. Currently, on the NJAMF board there are more than 40 members, all equally dedicated to the project, travelling pro bono to the various events; together this board has contributed \$2 million to the Foundation.

"This is a generational project," said Sansei Jeanette Ishii, a member of the Central Calif. Campaign Committee and the dinner's M.C. "We're honoring what the Issei and Nisei accomplished, it's really their legacy." She added, "It's for the Sansei and Yonsei but it's important to all Americans. It's important that the monument be in Washington, D.C., because millions of people will visit our nation's capital."

"When people hear the story they give money," said Chiogioji, a Sansei, who flew in from Silver Springs, Md. to attend the event. "When we talk to the youth they give money. When we talk to young JAs, Hapas, and tell them the story they feel proud of it. It's part of their heritage and they want to support it."

In addition to the Monument

See NJAMF/page 6



Speakers and attendees at the recent NJAMF dinner in Fresno: (from left) Rev. Saburo Masada, JACL National Director Herbert Yamanishi, Bob Sakata, CCCC Governor Grace Kimoto, Jeanette Ishii, Mae Takahashi, NJAMF Executive Director Cherry Tsutsumida, Melvin Chiogioji, Central California Nikkei Foundation President Mel Renge, Fred Hirasuna, and JACL National President Helen Kawagoe.

Utah, concentration camp. "It truly demonstrates what Americanism can do." Over the years, many scholars and academics have written a number of books on the topic of internment, said Sakata, but books are not permanent and can be lost after a generation or two. "This is a monument," he said. "It's there to stay, just like the Lincoln Memorial and the Wash-

Central California Nikkei Foundation. Attendees came to lend their support and to ask questions and find out more about the Memorial in D.C. But even before the official kick-off event, the Central California region has already raised \$61,000 towards its goal of \$300,000.

"For them it's an opportunity to honor the Issei," said the event's organizer Mae Takahashi, a

Central California Nikkei Foundation. Attendees came to lend their support and to ask questions and find out more about the Memorial in D.C. But even before the official kick-off event, the Central California region has already raised \$61,000 towards its goal of \$300,000.

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# JANM set to open new Pavilion in January 1999

**BY TRACY UBA**  
Writer/Reporter

LOS ANGELES—If you've traveled downtown to the Little Tokyo district, most likely you've made it a point to visit the Japanese American National Museum which, built in 1992 and the first of its kind in the United States, has been home to some of the most comprehensive cultural exhibits dedicated to sharing the Japanese American experience with an American public.

But now, perhaps as a sign of the millennium to come, the Museum's Historic Building is about to get a new neighbor. And it is a force to be reckoned with.

In JANM's effort to extend and develop its place as a premier cultural institution, it has undertaken its most expensive and expensive project to date. Eighty-four square feet and \$45 million later, the result is the new state-of-the-art Pavilion, an impressive sandstone, steel, granite and glass edifice which fuses both traditional and modern aesthetics to a striking effect.

"The building represents a significant milestone in terms of completion," said Executive Director and President of JANM, Irene Hirano, "but it also represents a very important beginning."

"We see it as a significant part of the revitalization of Little Tokyo and hope that it will encourage more visitors to come in ... not only from Southern California but from all over the country and the world."

Those that do make the trip will find more than 18,000 square feet in the new gallery space as well as a national Re-

source Center, which houses an interactive database, archives and educational materials, and a Japanese American Hall of Fame, honoring prominent figures in the JA community.

A recent preview luncheon held in the Pavilion's Central Hall offered a first glimpse into the spacious but still vacant building. A tour was led by Gyo Obata, the Pavilion's architect and founder of renowned design firm, Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum. No stranger to enormous tasks, his resume includes designing the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, the Olympic Center in Lake Placid and the new Levi Strauss Center headquarters in San Francisco.

"In designing [JANM's] new Pavilion, we sought to create a sense of openness instead of the conventional front-of-the-house/back-of-the-house division of so many museums," he said. "We also worked to incorporate both Western and Eastern philosophies in the design and to create a structure that was inviting and reflective, as witnessed in the use of glass and perforated stainless steel that softens direct sunlight."

Landscape architect Robert Murase, who designed the Pavil-

ion's front courtyard and outdoor garden terrace, a 90-foot-long stone composition and running pool intended to shield the space from traffic and street noise, explained his schema, "In

designing the courtyard and garden ... I drew inspiration from the ancient and sacred tradition of stone, from the stone walls and megaliths in Europe to the stone gardens of Japan."

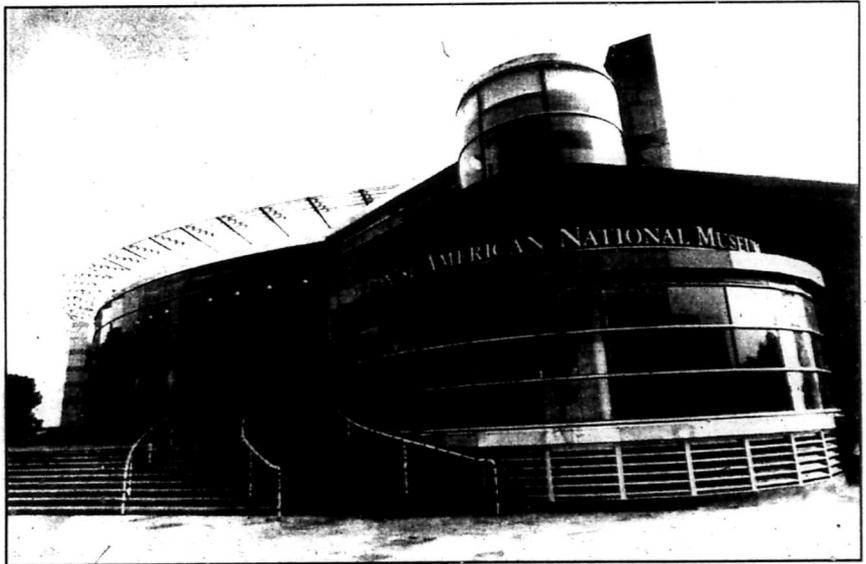
Murase added, "I'm really excited about the opening ... The

donations have been great and there's great anticipation." According to Executive Director Hirano, \$44 million in donations have just about fulfilled the \$45 million mark.

And luckily, the public won't have to wait much longer if all goes as planned. Opening day is scheduled for January 23, 1999. In the meantime, the last few months will be devoted to preparing and setting up the various installations within the gallery

postwar resettlement, the redress movement of the '80s and the experiences of the pioneering Issei. Also to be showcased is *Memory, Matter and Modern Romance*, a video exhibition by Los

Expected to be on view will be *Common Ground: The Heart of the Community*, an exhibition which covers the past 130 years in JA history, including a look at



The museum's new Pavilion is scheduled to open in January 1999.

See PAVILION/page 6

## Sen. Inouye seeks sixth, but not last term

(Continued from page 1)

about the President's troubles: "We [politicians] don't want to forget the main reason for being here, the well-being of the United States and [its] citizens."

For Inouye, now the fourth most senior member of the Senate, there have been many firsts in his career, among them: the first American of Japanese ancestry to be elected to either the House or the Senate in 1959; the first congressman to represent the newly admitted 50th state of Hawai'i.

And there have also been many accomplishments. There is the part he played in the historic redress movement and the eventual passage of the Civil Liberties Act of

1988, legislation that brought reparations and an apology to more than 81,000 Japanese Americans interned during World War II. And there is also his continued support of American Indians, first as the chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs from 1989-1994 and currently as the committee's vice-chair.

Among his numerous committee appointments, Inouye is a member of the Committee on Appropriations, the ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Defense; the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; the Committee on Rules and Administration, and also the Senate Democratic Steering Committee.

Still, there's not one accomplishment, not a single achievement that particularly stands out for him, said the senator. For him, the rewards of public office do not come with the signing of a bill or having his name attached to legislation. Rather it's being able to help a son return to Hawai'i to be at a sick parent's bedside or helping a promising young leader to get a scholarship.

"People may look at me and say 'What have you done?' but if you look at the issues in Hawai'i, 90 percent I could take credit for, but I don't. I like to think that I made a contribution in keeping the U.S. afloat, kept us out of major conflict. My sense of satisfaction and fulfillment ... knowing that I can do certain things outside of the reach of most people ... makes you feel good."

And even to this day, close to a half-century after first entering politics, Inouye continues to look forward to going into the office each day. "I start the day looking forward to the agenda of the moment. My day is filled with challenges and excitement. I consider myself extremely fortunate personally in my career. I can honestly say that I enjoy [it]. Not too many people can say that."

Sen. Inouye was born and raised in Hawai'i, the eldest of four children to a Hawai-

ian-born mother and a Japanese-born father. For more than 50 years now he has been married to his wife, Margaret, and they have one son, 34-year-old Daniel Ken Inouye Jr.

A graduate of the University of Hawai'i and George Washington University Law School, Inouye had originally dreamed of being a surgeon. Things changed though after he suffered a devastating injury to his right arm during WWII as a member of the famous 442nd Central Postal Directory. His heroic acts during the war were acknowledged with a number of awards, including a Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart with cluster.

Inouye's first endeavor into the field of politics took place in 1954

Regiment pledged I would do at some future time."

Now, as the JA community enters a post-Redress era, Inouye believes there is an increasing need to work together in an Asian Pacific American coalition. "Since AAs are small in number, but in terms of success standards they've done well, they should get together ... speak with one voice. Keep in mind that at this stage in history we all look alike."

"I think we should open each other's doors," he said. "Start walking into undiscovered rooms and, who knows?"

With the completion of Hawai'i's primary elections, Inouye is now looking forward to the November elec-



A recent visit to Washington, D.C. — (From left): John Tateishi, JAACL redress consultant, Sen. Daniel Inouye, Lori Fujimoto, JAACL national vice president of public affairs, Caroline Aoyagi, and Bob Sakaniwa, JAACL Washington D.C. Representative.

when he was elected to the Territorial House of Representatives, prior to Hawai'i being admitted to the Union. For years afterwards, the steadily increasing number of JA politicians looked promising. The '80s, when Redress was being fought for on the hill, were the high point, in addition to Inouye, there was Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawai'i) and Patricia Saiki (R-Hawai'i) in the Senate, and there was Norman Mineta (D-Calif.), Robert Matsui (D-Calif.), and Patsy Mink (D-Hawai'i) in the House, all of whom fought hard for the historic bill.

Today, Inouye is the sole JA in the Senate and only Matsui and Mink remain in the House. Like many others, the senator is disheartened with the low number of JAs in public office today and encourages young people to look to politics as a worthwhile career. "Both [Matsui and Mink] are becoming senior citizens. We're in our 70s. I've been urging people to show interest in the government. I try to motivate [young people] into public office."

Still, he realizes that many people look at a life in politics as a sacrifice and that young people today see a career in public office as a waste of time. "But if the six of us had adopted that position, Redress would only be an issue of debate and that's all the P.C. would be writing about," said Inouye.

But thanks to Inouye and other JA politicians, that is not all that the P.C. writes about today. It was shortly prior to meeting with the senator that the Department of Justice held a celebration marking the completion of the Civil Liberties Act. Although the legislation expired on August 10 of this year, Inouye looks forward to the educational works resulting from the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. "The law ends but thousands of grandchildren will be affected, thousands of scholarships as a result," he said. "The seeds have been planted and I hope they bear fruit."

"I am happy that I was here and proud that I was a part of [Redress]," he continued. "It was something that I as a member of the

poor economic climate in his home state. "While the nation seems to be enjoying success in the economic field, we in Hawai'i ... primarily because of the Asian financial problem ... are experiencing a sudden reduction in tourism." Forty percent of Hawai'i's tourists come from Japan, but with the recent Asian turmoil the Japanese are no longer spending as carelessly as they once did and are being more frugal with their yen. Japanese companies too, usually big investors in Hawai'i, are also holding back.

All of this worries Inouye as he works to get Hawai'i's economy back to health. Over his many years in office, the senator has seen much success in bringing needed federal funds to the islands. "For a politician, the economy is always a concern. Voters look to their leader."

After all the honors, accomplishments, and successes, Inouye, who claims to have never taken a vacation, has no plans yet to call it quits. At least, not on record. "In this business one must always keep in mind ideas, values, and principles but at the same time [one] must be pragmatic," he said. "Even in the event that someone has plans to leave he won't say that; he'd be a fool."

So for the record, Inouye assured us, "If I can keep on doing the duties, I will extend my career. If something appeared to be wrong, I'd be quitting. I don't want to be representing the state on a hospital bed."

But just in case there are any concerns, Inouye has a cholesterol reading of 166 and his blood pressure is 130/170. He recently had cataract surgery so his vision is better now than it's been in years, no longer requiring corrective lenses. The only problem he can think of is his left arm, which has a lot of scar tissue build up from years of overuse.

Happily, said Inouye, "I'm in the enviable position, as a politician, of enjoying great acceptance."

## Republican nominee credits crossover Democrat votes for her win in Hawai'i primaries

HONOLULU—Linda Lingle, Republican mayor of Maui, thanked the significant number of Hawaiians who normally vote Democrat for crossing over to vote Republican, thereby helping her win her party's nomination for the November governor's race.

The Democratic Party has dominated Hawai'i's politics for many years; the state has not had a Republican governor since 1962, and Democrats usually get twice as many votes as all the other parties combined. But an eight-year slowdown in economics, including a drop in tourism and an increase in bankruptcies, have all apparently resulted in a desire for change. More votes

were cast for Republican candidates overall in this primary, with Lingle receiving 69 percent in her race alone.

"I know that many of you have never voted for a Republican before, or worked on a campaign for a Republican," Lingle said at a victory celebration. "This election is not about Republicans and Democrats. It's about the future of our state."

But incumbent Democratic Governor Ben Cayetano, whom Lingle will face in the November elections, disputed her statement. "You can't fool us. [Republicans and Democrats] is exactly what this election is all about. We Democrats have built this state," he said. ■

## Gen. Shinseki's appointment to No. 2 position in the Pentagon awaits Senate confirmation

Former Kauai, Hawai'i, resident Eric Shinseki, 55, the first Asian American to wear four stars as a general, has been chosen to become vice chief of staff of the Army, the Army's No. 2 man; the appointment is subject to Senate confirmation.

As a lieutenant general, Shinseki has been serving in the Pentagon as the Army's deputy chief of staff for operations and plans. In addition to commanding all United States Army forces

in Europe, he is currently the commanding general of NATO land forces in central Europe and the stabilization force presently deployed in the former Yugoslavia Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Previously, he spent seven years in Europe as commander with the 7th Cavalry and the 3rd Infantry Division and also served in Italy with the Allied Land Forces in South Europe.

Shinseki was wounded twice in the Vietnam War; his many awards include the Distinguished Service Medal and the Purple Heart. Born in Lihue, Hawaii, he is a graduate of Kauai High School and the U.S. Military Academy, with a master's degree from Duke University. ■



Shinseki

## Clinton names Koh as assistant secretary of state

The president announced on Sept. 9 his intent to nominate Professor Harold Hongju Koh for assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor.

Koh, of New Haven, Conn., is professor of international law and director of the Orville H. Schell, Jr., Center for International Human Rights at Yale Law School.

Koh has clerked for Judge Malcolm Richard Wilkey of the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and for Justice Harry A. Blackmun of the U.S. Supreme Court, and has worked as an attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice.

He has written extensively on human rights, constitutional law, and international relations, law, and business transactions.

Koh was chosen 1997 Outstanding Lawyer of the Year by

the Asian American Bar Association of New York for his human rights work and has been recognized by *American Lawyer* magazine as one of America's 45 leading public sector lawyers under the age of 45.

He is a graduate of Harvard University, with an honors bachelor of science degree from Oxford University, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and has been invited to lecture at universities both here and abroad. As a lawyer, he fought for the rights of Haitian refugees to present their claims for political asylum, explaining that his own parents were political refugees from Korea in 1948.

If his nomination is approved by the Senate, Koh will advise the secretary of state on policy implementation relevant to democracy, human rights and labor. ■

## Miyake Santos, Tokuda take Democratic nominations in Seattle's primary elections

SEATTLE—An Issei Methodist minister's daughter who is married to a Filipino has won the Democratic nomination in the state's primaries for Position 1 in the 37th District of the state House of Representatives.

Sharon Tomiko Miyake Santos received 31.2 percent of the votes in the heavily Democratic district that is almost equally divided among African Americans, Whites and Asians. Santos graduated from Evergreen State College and has a master's degree from Northwestern University. A Republican has never won in

the 37th District, because the agenda does not appeal to the multiracial populace—the Black Republican in the race received only 6.6 percent of the votes—so Santos is expected to win easily against the Republican candidate in the November elections.

The Position 2 Democratic nomination for the same district was taken by the incumbent, Kip Tokuda, with a whopping 87 percent of the votes against nominees from the Republican and the Freedom Socialist parties; Tokuda is also expected to win in the November elections. ■

Sen. Inouye was born and raised in Hawai'i, the eldest of four children to a Hawai-

## Florin JACL honors four scholars

On July 18 members were welcomed to Florin JACL's 1998 Scholarship and New Member Banquet at the New Canton Restaurant. Dr. Jere Takahashi was the keynote speaker on the topic of his book, *Nisei/Sansei: Shifting Japanese American Identities and Politics*. Members were introduced to the following four outstanding students and their families: Erica Nakamura, attending the University of California at Berkeley in physics; Ryan Nakano, attending Cali-

fornia State Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo in mechanical engineering; Kristy Kunisaki, attending Santa Clara University in English and ethnic studies; Brian Sakamoto, attending the University of California at Riverside in premedicine.

All four recipients were awarded \$1,000 scholarships to further their academic studies. Members of the scholarship committee were Etsu Hui, Stan Umeda and Kimi Kaneko. ■



(From left) Chapter president Rick Uno, Brian Sakamoto, Ryan Nakano, Erica Nakamura, chapter president Karen Tomine, scholarship chairperson Kimi Kaneko, (Kristy Kunisaki not pictured).

## Ventura County hosts Japanese festival "Celebrating Our Heritage" in Camarillo

The Ventura County JACL will be hosting its 8th annual Japanese cultural festival, "Celebrating Our Heritage," on Oct. 11 from 3-6 p.m. at the Camarillo Community Center, 1605 E. Burnley St. (corner of Carmen) in Camarillo.

The event will feature a new local group, the Togen Daiko Taiko Group from Oxnard, with the thunderous sounds of Japanese festival drums. There will also be demonstrations of *kendo*, the ancient martial art of the sword, by sensei Mikio Hatandata and his group, and *karate*, the weaponless form of self-defense, performed by instructor Victor Young and his students from Camarillo. Members of the Miyagi Noshu Okinawa dance group will perform a short program of Okinawan dances.

In the exhibit area, instructor Cohnaku Tahnai and his students will demonstrate *sumi-e* brush painting and the Oxnard Sumi-e Club will demonstrate Japanese brush painting. A display of Japanese dolls in traditional costume will be accompanied by a

demonstration of their delicate costume and construction. A sushi-making lesson will be followed by a free sampling of the popular Japanese appetizer and other Japanese foods. For the children, there will be craft tables, with an opportunity to learn about *origami*, the art of paper folding, and other Japanese crafts.

In the patio area, there will be ongoing storytelling of Japanese stories and legends for the children, and the Ventura County Koi Society will offer an exhibit of koi, or Japanese carp. There will also be an exhibit of the artful implements used in *chanoyu*, or tea ceremony, and a demonstration by sensei Fumi Akutagawa and her students offering guests a chance to try the Japanese tea and sweets.

This festival is sponsored by the Ventura County Chapter to share with the community the beauty of the Japanese culture. For more information, call 805/655-5030. ■

## PSWD celebrates completion of civil liberties act

(Continued from page 1)

former board chair of the federally-sponsored Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF), Minami talked about the role and impact of redress not only in the lives of Japanese Americans but in the larger thread of history.

But while "redress revitalized the Japanese American community" and "empowered us as individuals," he said, it hasn't fundamentally altered race relations, basic institutions or legal precedents. "The real impact, he believes, will show itself more subtly as the lessons of redress slowly infiltrate the 'minds and

now reacting in a kind of backlash, saying, we are going to demonstrate that we have not greater rights than American citizens, but equal rights, and that means participating at the highest levels of power."

A representative from the office of U.S. Senator (and Fong's poll-rival in the upcoming election) Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) also sent her greetings and well wishes to those in attendance. Other notable politicians who made an appearance at the awards dinner included George Nakano, George Kiriya, Randi Tahara and Lee Baka.

Among the several recipients

toshi "Harry" Kajihara, former national JACL president, incumbent when the 1988 Civil Liberties Act was signed on August 10; Harry Kawahara, a counselor and professor at Pasadena City College who has been vital in implementing reform legislation at both the community college and state levels; Clarence Nishizu, pioneering founder of five JACL chapters and documentarian of Japanese Americans in Orange County; and Phil Shigekuni, an active San Fernando Valley Chapter member and founder of the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCR), which originated from the National JACL Redress Committee



Representatives of NCRR pose here after receiving the Civil Rights Award.

hearts of the American public.

Minami's moving address was preceded by the evening's kickoff, a raucous taiko performance by Jodaiko of the University of California at Irvine, with newscasters Susan Hirasuna of Fox Channel 11 News and Frank Buckley of KCAL TV Channel 9 News co-emceeding the event.

California's Republican candidate in the upcoming U.S. senatorial race, Matt Fong, made a brief appearance to extend his congratulations and to solicit support for his campaign. Speaking of the support he's received from Asian American communities so far, Fong told the *Pacific Citizen* that "it's been an unprecedented show of unity. Asian Americans across the country are

honored at the dinner were JACL Award winners Masasaki Hirouka, an active participant in the San Diego JACL for over 40 years, and George Ogawa, posthumously, an aerospace engineer who, as a civil rights activist, was a staunch supporter of the JACL and the redress campaign.

The National JACL Award went to George Aratani, founder of renowned companies Mikasa, Kenwood and Amco K.K. in Tokyo, and Manabi Hirasaki, who until last year worked for one of the largest strawberry growers in the country and continues to volunteer his time with the Japanese American National Museum.

The Redress Award was presented to four individuals: Hi-

in the late '70s.

"This is something that I'll look back on and say, this is one of the real high points of my life," said Shigekuni, for whom it was a double win as the JACL bestowed its Civil Rights Award upon NCRR for its continuing efforts to fight for redress — first for Japanese Americans through the '80s and more recently for Japanese Latin Americans who've been denied comparable compensation.

"I give the people in NCRR a whole lot of credit..." he continued. "They had a lot of educational forums and, although JACL was active in Congress where it

See PSW/page 6

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## JOB REOPENING Regional Director

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) has reopened the search for a Regional Director for the Pacific Southwest District who is energetic, organized, and highly motivated to "make a difference."

Under the general direction of the National Director, the Regional Director carries out JACL's Program for Action and other policies; conducts advocacy, community relations, and fund-raising activities; serves as a JACL spokesperson at the regional level; works with JACL members to develop programs and events; and monitors local, state, and national affairs affecting Asian Americans.

The Regional Director manages the Pacific Southwest District office in Los Angeles, supervising one staff person and periodic student interns. This semi-autonomous position is responsive to the Pacific Southwest District Council and board to ensure that JACL members in the district are adequately served. Lifting, travel, and work after regular hours and on weekends will be required.

A four-year college degree, excellent writing and public speaking abilities, and transportation are required.

Hiring range: \$31,433-\$37,335, depending on experience. Excellent fringe benefit package includes health and retirement benefits. Send cover letter, resume, and writing samples to: Herbert Yamaneishi, JACL, 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115; fax, 415/931-4671; e-mail, jac@jac.org. Deadline is October 16.

## JOB REOPENING Program Director-Education

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is seeking an energetic, organized, and highly motivated individual to fill a part-time position that becomes full-time at its Headquarters in San Francisco.

Under the general direction of the National Director, operates and manages the JACL Education Programs and projects, performing a wide variety of duties to ensure the development and quality performance of the JACL's national education programs and goals. Travel and work on weekends and evenings required. College graduate with a major in education policy, or general education preferred. Should have one to five years of progressively more responsible work experience in developing programs and policies that address human services and citizenship rights issues and concerns. Must be experienced in the use of computer technology and email.

Excellent fringe benefit package provided. Competitive salary commensurate with experience. Send resume and cover letter to: JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115 or fax to 415/931-4671. Emailed applications/resumes not accepted.

## JOB REOPENING Administrative Assistant to CEO

The JACL seeks an Administrative Assistant to the National Director who will handle a variety of clerical, administrative, confidential, and programmatic responsibilities. Involves a detailed knowledge of the organization's operations, procedures, personnel and volunteer management. Person will manage the general office operations of the JACL Headquarters offices.

Positions requires at least a two year college degree and/or degree in clerical or business related subjects. Prefer at least two years experience in supervising and managing general office routines. Above average written and verbal communications ability. Above average interpersonal and organizational skills, and enjoys working as a team player. Substantial experience in the use of computer word processing, spreadsheets, and database management programs.

Experience in operating a variety of other office equipment including multi-line telephone systems, copiers, postage meters, etc. Experience with nonprofit organizations and Asian American community a plus.

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## NJAMF looks for support in Central California

(Continued from page 3)

in D.C., there are currently a number of monument projects on the West Coast looking for funds from the JA community. Although Chiogioji understands the importance of all of these endeavors he points out that the Memorial in D.C. is unique. "This monument is going to belong to the United States of America. None of the other monuments are of that ilk. It's a great opportunity for the community to be proud of." The JA community's only responsibility is to raise the necessary funds to build the monument, he said. Once it's erected, the U.S. government will take care of the memorial in perpetuity.

The monument "is only the beginning of a long educational process," said Herbert Yamanishi, JACL national director. "After all, redress was about education." He added, "a lot of people still do not know the story [of internment]. We have to have a multiple approach to educating people. That's what [the monument] is all about."

"Washington D.C. is the conscience of America," said Yamanishi. "[This monument] sets the tone for who we are and where we start to engage in America's

democracy."

"Our compelling story is an American story that needs to be memorialized," said Takahashi.



Artist Noe Yamabe poses with the scroll he designed for the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

"I can't think of a more inspiring and more magnificent way to bring closure to the 20th century and to move into the 21st century."

For more information, contact the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, 1726 M Street, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20036, 202/861-8845, fax: 202/861-8848.

## JANM unveils new Pavilion

(Continued from page 3)

Angeles-based brothers, Bruce and Norman Yonemoto.

As expectation continues to mount, Bruce Kaji, a member of JANM's board of trustees, reflected on the determination and hard work that went into this project. "It's not one man's dream, it's [the result] of many people who wanted to see some-

experiencing a number of changes in recent times. Several family-run businesses and privately-owned cafes in Little Tokyo have closed or been shut down, while larger cultural institutions, including the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC), the Union Center for the Arts (old East/West Players) and the na-



(From left) Gyo Obata, architect of the museum's new Pavilion, Irene Hirano, JANM's president and executive director, and Paul Nagashima, senior architectural associate, pose in the Central Hall.

thing like this happen," he said. "It's a tremendous miracle for many people."

"I have a very deep feeling of appreciation for all the people that have participated in putting this together," he continued. "It's a reaction [shared by] not only Japanese Americans but the local community ... It would never have been possible without their support."

The local community has been

tional museum remain strong. The museum's role now becomes that much more crucial in helping to sustain an ever-evolving community and to educate the public about Japanese American culture. As Hirano said, "We hope the museum can continue to partner up with other organizations, continue to serve as the resource in bringing people together, and help the community to continue to share our history and experience with people."

## PSWD celebrates completion of 1988 Civil Liberties Act

(Continued from page 5)

really counted, I think the NCCR really ignited the community, particularly the people who were non-JACL, the grassroots people."

JACL's honoring of NCCR was an especially significant gesture because it, at least formally, signalled a reconciliation and new-found understanding between two organizations that previously had allowed past differences, especially over where credit was due, to eclipse their common goals.

"[Though] the fight for redress is not over," said NCCR president Richard Katsuda in his acceptance speech, "it started the process of bringing together many in the community who were divided by the wartime experience."

"It is in the spirit of collaboration that this award is being given [to NCCR] tonight," Katsuda said.

Shigekuni agreed, "I think it's very appropriate that JACL is recognizing the role that NCCR had. Even though we didn't work together very much — in fact, we didn't work together at all — I think we learned something from it. I'd like to think that perhaps by giving the award, it can lead to a closer working relationship in the future for both of our organizations."

The PSWD Awards Dinner follows the recent Department of Justice ceremony in Washington, D.C., which celebrated the conclusion of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, the 10-year program designed to compensate Japanese Americans who were evacuated and interned during

World War II. It also marked the epilogue of the federally-sponsored Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF).

"The ending of the whole program is bittersweet in the sense that I really felt we were able to achieve a lot with not a lot of resources," Minami said, in an interview with the *Pacific Citizen*. "We were able to fund the types of projects that we thought would have an influence on the consciousness of the American public. But at the same time I'm a little bit saddened by the idea that for 30 years we've been fighting this fight, it gave us an identity, it gave us a reason to live in a sense, and now it's ending."

"It was a learning process that [unfortunately] we had only one opportunity to go through," he added, reflecting on the experience. Although overall he regards the project as a success, Minami admits, "I do wish we had a lot more money ... There were projects that were worthy but didn't get money or didn't get enough money. There were projects that I think we made mistakes on and others that maybe in retrospect we should've funded more. But given the time constraints and resource constraints, I'm not sure we could have done [much more]."

But the completion of redress and the CLPEF program should encourage not just a nostalgic look back but a hopeful look towards the future. "What I realized was that this was a dream attained, but it also is a dream which remains," Minami said in his speech.

"I can't tell what impact it's going to have [at this point]. We know what we hope, but we don't know what will be."

Perhaps most compelling,

then, were the questions he posed at the end of his address as to the place of redress in a larger continuum of history. "Have we taught an enduring lesson?" Minami asked. "Have we left a permanent legacy?"

His own hope for the future, though unforeseeable now, lies with ongoing education and the telling of personal stories. "Even though the CLPEF program is legally at an end, [California Civil Liberties Public Education Grant Program] that we spun off, the project that we funded, will continue to develop into education not only for Japanese Americans but for all Americans," he told the P.C.

And now that Gov. Wilson has officially signed AB 1915, the bill sponsored by Assemblyman Mike Honda (D-San Jose) which, with a \$1 million allotment, seeks to extend education at the internment at the California state level just as the federal CLPEF program extended education at the national level, the legacy of CLPEF will live on for at least another three years.

"I think the California program now becomes a centerpiece for educating the public," Minami said. "This is the first state that has enacted [a bill] and ... I think it will be a model that other states can use to form their own CLPEF program."

The resounding message to emerge from the evening was the call to rise above past hindrances and to confront the future's real challenge, which, as Minami posed, is to redefine redress, what victory is, and to understand that redress is not simply \$20,000 and an apology, but also a larger vision of equal justice for Americans of all colors.

"The true victory," he declared in his formal address, "must be defined in the context of the [broader] civil rights struggle."

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## From the Frying Pan

By Bill Hosokawa

### There was a place called Kooskia

OF the hundreds of thousands — no, make that millions — of words written about the imprisonment of Japanese Americans during the late war, few make reference to Kooskia (pronounced KOOS-key) detention camp in sparsely populated northern Idaho.

There was no fence around Kooskia in a beautiful mountain valley. There were no women or children there. Clear, cold streams ran through the area and many of the 256 prisoners bought \$2 licenses to fish for trout in their leisure time. Workers, who had volunteered for road construction, were paid \$55 per month plus room and board in contrast to the \$19 top pay in the WRA camps.

I knew nothing of Kooskia until Dr. Priscilla Wegars, research associate and volunteer curator of the Asian American Comparative Collection at the University of Idaho, sent me a copy of her thoroughly documented 1998 research paper on the camp.

Called Kooskia Internment Camp, it was at the end of a primitive 31-mile road from the town of Kooskia which at the time had a population of 300. The nearest city was Lewiston, population 20,000, 110 miles distant.

The history of the Kooskia camp goes back to the 1930s when the depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps were brought in to work on a highway linking Lewiston with Missoula, Mont., 220 miles away. The CCC workers left after two years and the U.S. Bureau of Prisons sent convicts there to continue work on the proposed highway. By early 1943, the Bureau of Prisons, faced with reduced funding, abandoned the camp.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service, which had been in charge of the Issei internees jailed by the FBI immediately after the outbreak of war, was looking for an isolation camp for "troublesome" prisoners. But in the talks

that followed, federal officials came up with the idea of inviting Japanese aliens in Justice Department internment centers to move to Kooskia and work on the highway.

The first group of volunteers — 104 men from the Santa Fe internment camp — arrived in May 1943. They found fairly comfortable barracks, a well-equipped kitchen, a recreation hall, beautiful scenery and other amenities, but no medical facilities at first.

Virtually all the Japanese were middle-aged with little or no experience in heavy road labor. Yet many volunteered to work as dump-truck and bulldozer drivers and jackhammer operators. Others were assigned to fell trees and uproot and burn brush. The internees assigned to kitchen and laundry duty were given only 80 cents a day, which resulted in some dissatisfaction until the higher paid workers agreed to share their pay.

Discipline was loose. The canteen sold beer, among other things, and the men could gamble at night if they wished. There were English and other classes, Buddhist and Christian services on Sunday, and even occasional shopping expeditions to Lewiston. And some of the men were visited by their Nisei offspring who obtained leave from the WRA camps.

Kooskia Internment Camp was closed in May 1945 as more and more of the Issei won releases and replacing worn out equipment became difficult. Today, Wegars writes, "Except for a concrete slab where the water tower once stood, and level areas that held the former buildings, almost nothing remains to remind us of the Kooskia Internment Camp's contribution to Japanese American history."

The road they worked on now is part of U.S. Highway 12. ■

Hosokawa is the former editorial page editor for the Denver Post. His column appears regularly in the Pacific Citizen.

## Governor signs AB 1915

(Continued from page 1)

be \$3 million over three years.

• Creates two categories of grant programs:

1. Educate the public regarding the history and the lessons of the World War II exclusion, removal and detention of persons of Japanese ancestry through the development, coordination, and distribution of new educational materials and the development of curriculum materials to complement and augment resources currently available on this subject matter.

2. Develop videos, plays present-

tations, speaker bureaus, and exhibitions for presentation to elementary, secondary and community college audiences.

• Allows the following entities to apply for funds: nonprofit organizations, four-year colleges and universities, cultural institutions, arts organizations, and community organizations, individual artists, writers, journalists, scholars and educators, units of government and consortia composed of any of the entities listed.

For further information on AB 1915, contact Honda's office at 916/445-8243 or by e-mail at honda@asm.ca.gov. ■

## JA fire administrator appointed

Silver Spring, Md.—Gordan A. Aoyagi, 53, of Rockville, was appointed on July 31, 1998, to the position of Montgomery fire administrator. Aoyagi will oversee a reorganized department made up of both professional and volunteer firefighters, though Aoyagi has no fire and rescue experience.

Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan, who chose Aoyagi for the position, expressed his full confidence in Aoyagi's ability.

"I don't see this as a job that needs someone who is a fire and rescue expert, but rather for

someone who is an expert administrator," Duncan said.

Aoyagi has been with the county government since 1985. He served as general manager for mass transit in Salem, Ore., and held management posts with the Westport, Conn., Transit District and Regional Transportation District in Denver.

As administrator, Aoyagi will enforce the policies of the seven-member Fire and Rescue Commission, and manage day-to-day fire and rescue services in the county and enforce disciplinary action. ■



## Troubled in paradise

By Brian Niiya

### Camp stories

ALTHOUGH there have been hundreds if not thousands of works written about camp over the years, I'm always amazed at how little we really know about the subject. The internment is an incredibly complex story which took place in a myriad of different locations and involved thousands of people both inside and outside the gates of the camps. Though we have a pretty good understanding about some topics, there are plenty of others about which we know very little.

One of the virtues of the recently published *Remembering Heart Mountain: Essays on Japanese American Internment in Wyoming* (edited and contributions by Mike Mackey, Powell, Wyoming: Western History Publications) is that it delves into some of those stories about which we know little. It also illustrates some of the tensions which exist among those who do research on the camps, illuminating some of the issues around which those tensions arise.

The sixteen pieces in this volume mostly stem from a conference titled "Japanese American History: The Heart Mountain Experience" which was held at Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming in May of 1995. Even though Heart Mountain is one of the better researched camps, there is still much in this volume which breaks new ground.

Some comes from the point of view of those on the outside. Philip J. Roberts writes about the reaction of Wyoming residents to the camp, while editor Mackey's piece looks at ways Wyoming residents sought economic benefit from the camp.

New perspectives from the inside are also included. In his account of the history of the Heart

Mountain hospital and the causes of a 1943 strike by hospital workers, University of Washington professor Louis Fiset portrays a frustrated and bickering group of Japanese American doctors clashing with authoritarian and culturally insensitive Caucasian administrators and demoralized support staff. Former Heart Mountain hospital nurse Velma Kessel's recollections paint a dramatically different picture of the hospital.

Then there are the controversies. Former *Heart Mountain Sentinel* editor Bill Hosokawa devotes most of his account of the newspaper to attacking previous characterizations of the *Sentinel* by Lauren Kessler and Douglas Nelson. The main point of contention seems to be whether or not the *Sentinel* enjoyed true freedom of the press and represented the views of the majority of the camp population.

The draft resistance issue is also covered here, though little is added to what we already know. Former Heart Mountain dissident and University of Hawaii professor Frank T. Inouye outlines the history of the Fair Play Committee while archivist Eric Bitner describes some of the court documents on the draft resistance cases which are available at the Rocky Mountain regional branch of the National Archives. On the other side of the coin is a piece by Heart Mountain draftee and 442nd veteran Sam Fujishima which outlines his experience.

My favorite pieces in the volume are by Art Hansen and Lane Hirabayashi, two scholars doing some of the most interesting work on camp.

Hirabayashi's piece describes some of the voluminous written sources on the camps which were

most written at the time as a result of one of three research projects and how contemporary researchers might "read" this material. Hansen's piece focuses on the visit to Heart Mountain and two other camps of Ben Kuroki in 1944. A Nisei from Nebraska, Kuroki had flown 30 bomber missions over Europe and 28 more in the Pacific, becoming one of the most famous Nisei war heroes of the time. As such, he was sent to visit three camps to "encourage" Nisei to enlist in the military. As you might expect, views of Kuroki and his visits vary depending on whom you ask. Using archival sources and contemporary interviews with Kuroki and others who were at Heart Mountain at the time of his visit, Hansen brilliantly weaves a tale of differing definitions of "loyalty" and "heroism" and suggests that we might make room for all of them in how we think about the camp period. It is a remarkably even handed account of a very sensitive topic.

As a whole, the volume makes a substantial contribution to the voluminous literature on camp. In part because most of the articles are written by non-academics, the book should be quite accessible to non-specialists while being useful to professional scholars at the same time.

While many of us get tired of hearing about camp sometimes (I've been known to voice such feelings myself on occasion), works such as this one are useful for teaching us something unfamiliar or showing us new ways to think about the familiar. It's an important lesson, because there is still so much more to learn. ■

Brian Niiya is a member of the Honolulu JAACL.



## A Bridge Across the Pacific

By Emily Murase

### A family tradition that spans the Pacific

"I want to become a bridge across the Pacific." These were the words of Dr. Nitobe

Nitobe, a renown statesman and educator whose portrait appears on the present day 5,000 yen bill and who happens to be a distant relative. These words are the basis of a family tradition that spans four generations — from Dr. Nitobe to my grandfather, to my mother, and to me.

Dr. Nitobe's life coincided with Japan's Westernization which began in 1968 with the Meiji Era. As a student, he focused on agricultural economics. To further his studies, he enrolled at Johns Hopkins University in the late 1890s as one of the first Japanese students to study in the United States. There, he met, and later married Mary Elkinton, a young Quaker woman, who returned with him to Japan.

In an attempt to make Japanese culture understandable to Westerners, Dr. Nitobe wrote *Bushido: Soul of Japan*. It was a bestseller at the turn of the century and is still available today. The pinnacle of his career was his appointment as Under-Secretary General of the League of Nations between the two world wars.

There are many family stories about how Dr. Nitobe, my great grand uncle, influenced my grandfather who served as an advisor to the first trans-Pacific flight. Famous is the first trans-Atlantic flight and hero Charles Lindbergh, but few know the names of the two American aviators who pioneered trans-Pacific air travel in 1931, fly-

ing non-stop from Misawa in northern Japan to Wenatchee, Washington.

These heroes of the Pacific were Clyde Pangborn and Hugh Herndon. Unfortunately, this historic event was largely ignored because of Japanese military aggression in Asia and the hostilities in Europe that erupted into World War II. Nevertheless, the flight was a landmark event for my family.

In fact, my mother, who was born just four days after the flight, was named Seiko, meaning success in Japanese. As a child, she dreamed of going to the United States, like Uncle Inazo before her. The opportunity arose when she received a scholarship to pursue graduate study in Philadelphia. Once settled into her new surroundings, she decided to marry and have a family in the United States.

I was raised in San Francisco, speaking Japanese both at home and at school. I have lived in Japan three times, first as a child, then as a college exchange student, and finally as a working adult. The first time, my father received a sabbatical leave from the university where he was teaching, taking the entire family with him to Tokyo for a year.

While most other American kids enrolled at the American School in Japan, my mother insisted we attend public elementary school. Naturally, we were quite a curiosity — kids who looked perfectly Japanese who could speak only imperfectly. But friendships devel-

oped quickly as we shared stories about life in the United States.

Living in Japan as an exchange student during my junior year in college, I studied modern Japanese history, tracing the lives of Dr. Nitobe and others who played important roles in U.S.-Japan relations. The last time I was in Japan, I worked for AT&T Japan on joint development projects between teams of Japanese and American software developers. Managing cultural differences was a daily part of my work.

Currently, as part of my doctoral research at Stanford, I am looking at how the Internet is changing the way we communicate. The Japanese are just as enthusiastic as Americans about the Internet, a communication medium that is, in many ways, borderless. At weekly seminars of the Stanford Asia-Pacific Scholars program, such topics are discussed among a select group of graduate students with a particular interest in the Asia-Pacific region, many of whom are from countries in Asia.

I am very privileged to be a part of this group. Like Dr. Nitobe, my grandfather, and my mother, I, too, strive to be a bridge across the Pacific. ■

Thanks to her family background and upbringing, Emily Murase is fully bicultural (one of her very favorite foods is *natto* which she loved to eat as a child despite the vehement objections of her two siblings.)

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## East Wind

By Bill Marutani

## Dabbling in Nihon-go

IN A PREVIOUS column (titled *Minding My P's & Q's*, Aug. 21-Sept. 3, 1998), the subject was *Nihon-go* (Japanese language), its *jiten* (dictionary), and *hatsu-on* (pronunciations). I mentioned that there's no "L," "Q," or "X" section in the *jiten*; that during WWII a cartoonist (Milton Caniff) postulated a test for exposing a Japanese person by having the suspect try to pronounce "faultless fortress," and so on. An anonymous reader from Seattle (the postmark on the envelope) ascribed the Japanese language entanglement between "L" and "R" to the phonetics assigned to the "ra, ri, ru, re, ro" group in the Japanese alphabet. Thus (she) — yes, women readers send in critiques, some of them scathing — points to aberrations such as "flesh fruit," "expless truck," and a Japanese translation into English which came out "I love my whore family." This Seattle reader closed with a tongue-in-cheek observation: "What a great diffeience a couple of lettels can make."

WHICH REMINDS ME of a story which reputedly is true. Many of you have heard the story. I did not personally witness it, but I did see a photograph of the incident. But photographs can be doctored; even moving pictures can be manipulated such as various U.S. presidents appearing in the movie *Forrest Gump*, and the amazing pictorial illusions created in the movie *Titanic*. Anyway, when General Douglas MacArthur returned from Japan to the United States and there was serious talk of his possible candidacy for the office of the President of the United States — MacArthur was revered by the Japanese (the General's tenure in

Japan was referred to as "MacArthur One" et seq., à la Japanese custom of marking the years by the Emperor's reign) — the news was received by the Japanese with much enthusiasm. Banners of encouragement were strung from buildings, one of them reading "General MacArthur: We pray for your successful erection."

GETTING BACK to the Japanese alphabet, I've been unable to resolve the seeming inconsistency in pronouncing that line of "letters" that go "ha, hi, hu, he, ho." It's the "hu" segment that trips me up. A check of the *jiten* shows no Japanese words that start with "hu—." There is a section in the *jiten* that starts with "F" with the first "fu" entry being the designation of "fu" being applicable to three prefectures of Japan: Tokyo-fu, Osaka-fu and Kyoto-fu. I'm sure that at the M.I.S. School at Ft. Snelling the instructors gave a reason why these three metropolitan areas were dubbed "fu," but today I'd flunk that question on the exam. Except for Hokkaido, all the others are "ken" as in Hiroshima-ken.

ID ALSO FLUNK numerous other examination questions. For example, a reader asked me the difference among the three terms by which a dictionary is known: "ji-biki, ji-sho and ji-ten." I've checked the *kanji* (Chinese characters) for each of these three terms, seeking some clue as to differentiation. No luck. But I'll keep looking.

And one of these days.... ■

After leaving the bench, Marutani resumed practicing law in Philadelphia. He regularly writes for the *Pacific Citizen*.



## MIXED MESSAGES

By Mika Tanner

## Writer's block

I'M stuck. Even though I have been writing this column for only a little over a year, it is getting increasingly difficult to come up with things to write about. Every two weeks as the day of my deadline draws near, I rack my brain hoping that it will think of something at least marginally entertaining and meaningful to develop into a column. Sometimes I am lucky, and will be inspired by something that happens in my own personal life, but more often than not these days, I struggle till the last minute to think of an appropriate writing topic.

What's strange is that I thought the more one wrote, the easier the process became. In my case, the opposite is true. When I first began writing this column, I had a lot to get off my chest, so many things I felt very strongly about and wanted to discuss, that being a columnist was deceivingly easy.

Whether I wanted to write about injustices or insensitivity in mainstream society, issues concerning Hapas, or about the merits or contradictions in the Japanese American community at large, I was never at loss for a topic. I was happy to have something to say and to have a forum in which my voice could be heard. These days, however, I seem to have lost a lot of the indignation or anger that prompted me to write in the beginning. Maybe I'm mellowing with age, but now I can't seem to get upset enough about any particular thing to go on and on about it for 800 words or so. In part, this is because the more I write and experience, the more I come to see that nothing I write about is new: contradictions within the community, struggles with cultural identity and preservation, conflicts between generations —

all these things have existed from the beginning and will always exist, whether I choose to write about them or not. If this is the case, I have begun to wonder, what more can I really add? Besides, the issues that exist within the community have been discussed to death and I guess I don't want to feel as though I am preaching to the converted or beating a dead horse. That doesn't seem too productive, somehow.

Furthermore, when writing about a particular issue, I often feel as though my responsibility is to take a firm position on it and voice my arguments and opinions in the hopes of swaying the minds of others. When I first started writing, this was easy. I knew exactly where I stood, where I felt others were ignorant or at least misinformed, and I knew what I needed to say. Now, however, I am not that sure about anything, least of all my own opinion. I have come to see that it is very difficult to criticize anything and take sides — every side, every position is essentially flawed in some way, and if that's true, who am I to say that any side is better than another? Granted, there are a few debates where I would be able to take a firm position, but most issues within the community are not so clear cut and neat.

I also frequently write about personal experiences in the hopes that other people can relate to some of what I have gone through. Interestingly, these columns have

received the most positive response, since it is really true that human experience is universal. However, how personal can I get without seeming indulgent? Or, even worse — boring?

I am reluctant to air every little detail of my life just to have something to write about — anything I write about should have a purpose. And how can what I write about have a purpose or at least some kind of message if I haven't gotten things figured out yet? My own life seems so confused and messy that it is hard to figure it out long enough to write about it. And if I'm this confused, what advice or perspective could I possibly give anybody else?

So I'm going through a little column crisis these days, but hopefully it will soon pass and the ideas will come and the words will flow. Maybe it's not something to get so worked up about. Largely, though, I think that much of what I'm going through is just a process of getting older and wiser. I've begun to realize that life, culture, community, and identity are exceedingly complex — so much so that the more I live, the less I seem to know. And, while this may be a sign of maturity and personal growth, it makes it damn hard to be a regular columnist. ■

Mika Tanner is a board member of the Hapa Issues Forum. She can be contacted at mtanner@lausd.k12.ca.



## Very Truly Yours

By Harry K. Honda

## 'Frances' will be hard to forget

FOR A CHANGE, after an absence of some 50 years, I revisited the state of Texas several weeks ago — Houston, to be precise. On that Friday, tropical storm "Frances" dropped several inches of rain. Some sections got 12 inches in 12 hours; one neighborhood reported 10 inches in a matter of hours as their bayous (elsewhere they're called creeks, in California rivers) overflowed the banks while people were waking up to go to work. One news photo caught a chap wading chest-deep through muddy waters while crossing the street.

Viewing the disaster on television, I saw that the freeways leading into downtown just after dawn were a mess. To explain: At the interchanges, I-10 (the interstate ranging from Santa Monica, Calif., to Jacksonville, Fla.) dips to the lower level in Houston and with the sewers unable to catch all the rain, the highway was a little lake in no time. Three city buses got stuck in the rising waters as passengers scrambled to the top waiting to be rescued. By noon, there was a break in the storm as telecopters took to the air to broadcast the devastation. The three buses had flipped onto their sides and appeared to be floating in the water. While scanning the flood story for the air, I was reminded, if only for a

minute, of Venice, Italy. Yes, "Frances" will be hard to forget.

Arrangements to meet some Houston JACLers that night were postponed for Saturday afternoon. Lily and Mas Yamasaki, our one-time Dayton mentors now retired in Houston, introduced us to Texas-born chemical engineer George Hirasaki (who was on his way to The Hague for business) and his wife Darlene, and Dr. Daniel Watanabe, who is about as knowledgeable as they come on the Asian American scene in southeastern Texas.

One grand lady we had to meet in Houston was someone who had appeared annually in the P.C. 1000 Club Honor Roll — Mary K. Sutow, when there wasn't a JACL chapter there.

A pre-war JACLer, she had worked with the Saburo Kidos, Larry Tajiris, Mike Masaoka and the Hito Okadas, all JACL pioneers. She volunteered at headquarters in San Francisco and Salt Lake City during the hectic war years. Her Guadalupe-born late husband Dr. Wataru W. Sutow was a medical student at Stanford when the war broke out. He received his degree in 1945 at Utah, with a residency in pediatrics in 1947. He became engaged in pediatric research for the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission in the mid-Pacific and then

was intensively involved in research of children with solid tumors at the M.D. Appleton Hospital and Tumor Institute in Houston, where he spent nearly 30 years.

The surprising sight for me was to see his vast collection of seashells in his home library. He was also a notable oncologist. Probably that word is appearing for the first time in the P.C. columns.

Here's a twist to the "Jap Road" controversy which has stirred Beaumont. The Koreans in Houston have a growing population, about 20,000 today, with the highest concentration in the Spring Branch area — about 10 miles west of downtown and a half-mile north of I-10. While Mayor Lee Brown, who is Black, administratively approved to add Korean script to the street signs at 10 intersections of Long Point Road, in mid-August some residents complained. And, the city councilman of the district argued, public sentiment was clearly split. To the mayor's credit, he reminded us, "It's been like that since the '80s and it works fine. It keeps politics out of the process." The councilman wanted a formal process (an ordinance) in place. "Korean sign plan abandoned," the local paper (not the *Chronicle*) quietly headlined. ■

Blue Shield health plans for California JACL members

Blue Shield of California offers group health care coverage to current JACL members age 18 and over who reside in California. Plans may include a wide range of benefits, including vision care, worldwide emergency coverage, dental care, prescription drug benefits and more. For more information about these plans, call the JACL Health Benefits Trust today at 1-800-400-6633.

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# House passes H.R. 3892, "English Fluency Act"

WASHINGTON—On Sept. 10, the U.S. House of Representatives voted in favor of H.R. 3892, known as the "English Fluency Act," by a vote of 221 to 189. H.R. 3892, introduced by Rep. Frank Riggs (R-Calif.), will limit federal funding for language assistance programs that benefit immigrant and limited-English proficient (LEP) children.

Currently, under the Bilingual Act, federal funds are distributed to school districts to establish and implement bilingual education programs. In contrast, H.R. 3892 creates a system by which states would have to compete for block grants to fund language assistance programs. The bill also forces limited-English proficient children to "master" English in two years, ends federal support for teacher training programs, and repeals the Emergency Immigrant Education Act.

Deepa Iyer, staff attorney at the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, stated, "H.R. 3892 is yet another attack on the rights of immigrants, many of whom are LEP or have

LEP children. Removing these children from bilingual education classrooms within two years and eliminating funds for teacher training will make it next to impossible for LEP children to survive in mainstream classrooms."

Perhaps most dismaying to civil rights and education rights advocates are those provisions of H.R. 3892 that end compliance agreements which ensure that LEP students receive a meaningful opportunity to an education. These compliance agreements, entered into between school districts and the federal government, set forth standards which school districts must follow to guarantee educational rights to LEP students under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. H.R. 3892 will void these agreements, thereby giving school districts no incentive to refrain from past discriminatory methods.

H.R. 3892 was successfully reported to the full House from the Full Committee on Education and the Workforce. There is currently no similar legislation pending in the Senate. ■



## Letters to the Editor

### Re: Stop the "whining" presses

When an opportunity arises to disagree with *The Frying Pan*, the horns of a dilemma gore this one's behind: Dost one dare to dispute? Would it be considered the height of folly to challenge?

The reason for bewilderment is Bill Hosokawa joining the *Rafu Shimpō's* George Yoshinaga in taking the position that it is "time to quit whining (about the 1942 evacuation)" and "can't we ever forget the same old tale of woe?" Hosokawa concluded his commentary by stating, "It may be politically popular, but it's about time we quit whining about camp. Any argument?"

Yes. "Memory feeds a culture, nourishes hope and makes a human, human. So sayeth Elie Wiesel. (Of course Carl Sandburg declared "(that) the past is a bucket of ashes," but let's side with ole Elie this time around, okay?)"

I, too, often am amazed by the fervor of those (usually younger non-internees) who were so determined to see Redress succeed. Their resolution was admirable. (But should there be a Grandfather Clause for this passion? If that was Hosokawa's point, I totally agree. But then we wouldn't have anything to argue about, so let's disregard the question.)

Denver Bill is bemused by the fact that thousands continue to flock to reunions of every ilk simply for the enjoyment of reliving time spent behind barbed wire!

Whatever the psychology behind such behavior, human nature seems to de-emphasize the bad and ugly while reviving the pleasant as the years pass. Camp was most certainly not a picnic, but for the vast majority of the 120,000, it was not a permanent disfigurement.

I cannot speak for the masses (even though I'd like to) but the passage of time tends to revise history, mends it. It makes good reading to lament the ravages of war, in all its ugly ramifications, but I wonder how many more farmers and chicken ranchers there might have been instead of engineers, architects, teachers, administrators and transplanted Hawaiians? (Hold the cards and letters, pulee. Some of the latter group number amongst my best friends.)

No one can deny the existence of whiners and protesters of concentration camp mentality; I join the H-Y duo in suggesting that they get a life. But few, if any, camp residents fall into that category. Why anyone would look askance at the popularity of reunions solely for the purpose of remembering the '40s is beyond me. Most attend and enjoy for the sole purpose of revival and reliving, not to argue the Constitution or *coram nobis*.

It's more like an opportunity to lie about people looking good while wondering who you're talking to; counting how many times a sentence begins with "do you remem-

ber?", and feeling sorry for the spouses forced to attend these functions who never experienced a day in camp.

Naw, Hosokawa, I don't think there's anything wrong with remembering '42-'45. Sides, won't be too much longer before we're all gone, anyway, then the revisionists can revise all they want.

W. T. Hirota  
Gardena, Calif.

cans before the next century.

Hideo Tachibana  
Ames, Iowa

### Re: Internment Camps

Although I usually enjoy reading my copy of the *Pacific Citizen*, this most recent issue disturbed me. The caption underneath the front page photograph states that Henry Shima (an interned JLA) was "on his way to America's concentration camps." While the World War II internment of civil liberties unprecedented in American history; Poston, Manzanar, Tule Lake, etc. were internment centers.

Even the Justice Department center that Shima appears to have been placed in was an internment center. WWII informed the 20th century of the difference between American internment relocation centers and the German concentration camps. I have walked through Tule Lake. I have walked through Auschwitz. They are not the same.

Please be more careful in the future, words have a tremendous power to conjure up responses.

Valerie H. Sasaki  
Eugene, Ore.

The use of the term "concentration camp" to describe the camps Japanese Americans were interned in during WWII has always been a source of debate (refer to PC's article in the March 20-April 2, 1998, issue titled, "What is a concentration camp?"). As was outlined in that article, there is a clear distinction being made between America's concentration camps and the death camps of the Holocaust; PC is not equating the two. But according to a number of scholars within the Japanese American community, and Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College Edition, JAs were in fact placed in concentration camps during WWII.—Editor

### Re: When will WWII end for Japanese Americans?

I write this letter at this time relative to that written by Jim Izumizaki (PC, Feb. 6, 1991) and to follow up on my article in the PC, Aug. 7-20, 1998. All in the hopes that we Japanese Americans can begin resting in peace after the long history of World War II, then and today. To continue to educate the public is necessary. To continue the diatribe against those who did or did not do it is bad and reconciliation by all is needed.

My apology to Jim Izumizaki for this belated reply. I write today because the struggle of then seems to continue without end, particularly between the draft resisters, the JAACL and the veterans. I filed age and race discrimination charges after losing my abbreviated federal career position, and lost that too in the heart of America. Previously, it was with the Veterans Administration. Either I'm a born loser or I don't fight hard enough. I've turned to writing just as Jim had. His and his family's losses are inordinate. Thus, I have much empathy for them. But I also have the same consideration for those who put their foot down at the time of the draft. Internees, volunteers, and resisters all protested.

I will never forget my experience at the Santa Anita Assembly Center of 18,719. Briefly, it was the riot that took place after, overzealous and abusive treatment by the internal security. Whereupon, the National Guard was called in but were forced back out backward by internee resistance. That was the first camp resistance by internees. Tanks were brought in and kept running back and forth between the barracks all night. In the interim, Min Yasui, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Fred Korematsu exercised their rights, legally and/or illegally. Ultimately, the Mitsuye Endo case was strategically planned and adjudicated by James Purcell and Wayne M. Collins to win and reverse the three prior efforts via the court. The final significant protest was by the draft resisters. In all cases, internees protested after repeated civil rights violations, not for themselves, but for the people—the Japanese Americans and their families. As an MIS veteran, I served for the same reasons, hoping back to normalcy for all; peace and the pursuit of happiness as worded in the Constitution. I write again for peace for all Japanese Ameri-

## Southern Calif. Hapa Issues Forum to hold its first conference

Southern California Hapa Issues Forum recently announced that it will hold its first conference in the Southern California region: *Towards a Multiethnic Millennium: Hapas and the Asian American Community in the 21st Century*.

The conference will be co-sponsored and hosted by California State University Northridge's Asian American Studies Department and will be held on Oct. 17 at CSUN's student union.

This conference will join together educators, artists, journalists, community leaders, and family members to share ideas and discuss issues concerning multiracial Asian Americans and

Pacific Islanders in Southern California and their relationship to Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

The morning keynote panel will include distinguished, dynamic and critically acclaimed Hapa writers and performers: Velina Hays Houston, Kip Fulbeck, Aimee Liu, and Alison Delacruz.

The registration deadline is Oct. 3. Registration is \$5 for students and \$10 for non-students. For more information and registration forms call 213/694-0286, e-mail socialhif@yahoo.com, or call the Asian American Studies Department at CSUN 818/677-4966. ■

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\* "Voices" reflect the active, public discussion within JAACL of a wide range of ideas and issues, requiring clear presentation though they may not reflect the viewpoint of the editorial board of the *Pacific Citizen*.

\* "Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should include signature, address and daytime phone number. Because of space limitations, letters are subject to abridgment. Although we are unable to print all the letters we receive, we appreciate the interest and views of those who take the time to send us their comments.

# Report finds minorities marginalized in campaign finance system

(Continued from page 1)

a recurring pattern — that the vast majority of contributions come primarily from white, wealthy neighborhoods.

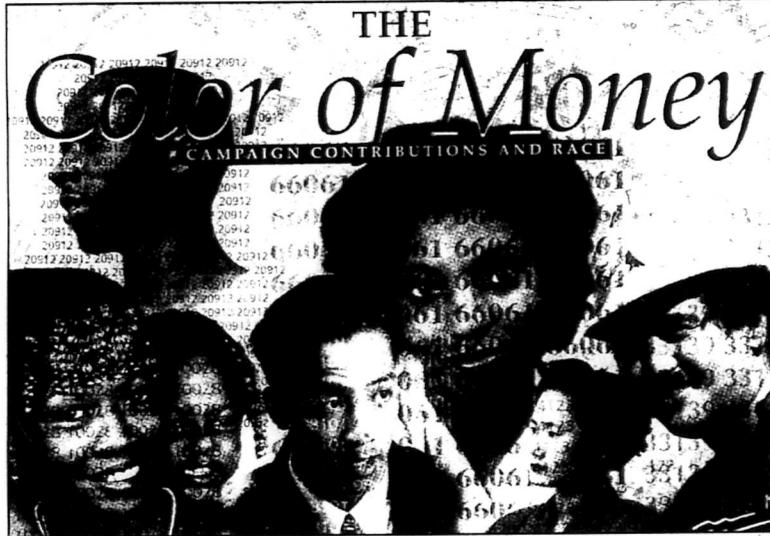
In New York City, for instance, the report shows that two-thirds more money is contributed by zip code 10021, an area in Manhattan where the majority (91 percent) is white, than by the nearly 500 zip

Rivers III, director of the Southeast Region, NAACP. "Since African Americans have decidedly less income, less disposable money than other people in the country, we're at a disadvantage when money is the deciding factor in whether you can participate.

"[W]hile other folk have the luxury of picking between two people who still might represent them in some way, for us it's a matter of

campaign — then, in fact, our constituents don't have the opportunity to participate in the electoral process and vote for the candidate of their choice," said Hayes.

Those involved in reform agree that this is an effort to disallow private money from dominating the campaign finance system, so that there is a fairer chance of electing officials who are truly representative of minority groups. The voting



"The Color of Money" report shows figures which demographically compare who is making campaign contributions.

codes where the population is comprised mainly of minorities. For every \$86.72 contributed by the 107,000 residents in this area of Manhattan, 59 cents was contributed by 9.5 million people in the other 500 locales.

These staggering figures corroborate the suspicions that civil rights groups have had for years. "We're impacted in a negatively disproportionate way," said Nelson

having representation or none."

Executive director of the Los Angeles chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Council, Genethia Hayes added, "The fundamental right of communities of color and the poor are being abridged [by the campaign finance system] ... They have no hope of moving into judicial offices — the very offices which decide criminal justice issues that affect them.

"If we are unable, because of this whole notion of the acquisition of wealth and amassing of wealth, to put forth a viable campaign — not a viable candidate but a viable

rights movement follows the broader historical fight not only for political participation, but for political equality at the ballot box.

"These findings are extremely significant because they speak volumes about what's wrong with our democracy today," Silverman said. "This country was founded on the principle 'one person, one vote,' and that means that everybody gets a vote, everybody's vote is equal and everybody's vote counts.

"It shouldn't matter whether you give money to the campaign or to the candidate, it should be [about] your voice being heard."

# Race initiative panel's report falls short of expectations

(Continued from page 1)

the primary focus of discussion should be. At one point, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, Oh expressed her concerns over that early discord, "There was even a point at which I thought, 'What am I even doing here? Maybe I should depart. And that's how rough I think it's been.'"

The controversy began when board chair, John Hope Franklin, one of two African American members, expressed his vision of focusing on black/white relations, which has generally engendered the core of the country's "race relations" issue.

Oh, on the other hand, urged the panel to broaden their focus to include other minorities, who, in the past, have been sidelined in this issue. Because Asian Pacific Americans and Latinos are two of the fastest growing populations in many cities and are becoming increasingly more high-profile in the media and in positions of power, it was therefore more crucial than ever to include them and all other groups in a discussion of race.

"We made it clear that the paradigm for the 21st century is a multiracial, multicultural society," Oh said, in the *Times* article. "What it will accomplish is a recognition we need to take seriously the availability of the data there and we need to start gathering it. We also have to expect

that by calling on this expanded 'vision of race in America,' we're going to raise tensions. You see it in sort of the 'backlash' attitude of people who want to press more strongly that it's really only about black and white. It's not.

"I raised the challenge of beyond black and white because it would have been very easy to avoid moving beyond the black/white chasm," she continued. "Intellectually, the President gets the idea of inclusion. [But] at an experiential level, he really knows the black/white thing. I don't think he has an Asian American friend."

White House officials have suggested, however, that people may've expected too much in terms of wanting immediate results and what the panel's role was. The race panel, they argued, was not designed to be a cure-all for the country's racial problems but merely the vehicle for the President to eventually pen his own report.

At the very least, though, Oh believes that the board's efforts got the ball rolling. Quoted in another article, she said, "It was a great start, and the work needs to continue," she said. "We have contacted so many people, local leaders who are doing extraordinary things that it's really clear that there's a role for the federal government to play in advancing our interests in seeing race relations improve in this country."



Race initiative panel member Angela Oh.

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**OBITUARIES**

**"Masako," popular singer of the '60s**

Darlene Yoshimoto McDonald, popular Hawaiian singer of the '60s who was known professionally as Masako, died in Utah on August 31. She was 54 years old.

"Masako" began performing professionally as a teenager, appearing in prominent Waikiki venues such as the Royal Hawaiian Monarch Room and the Kahala Hilton's Maile Lounge. Her musical versatility allowed her to sing pop and jazz songs as well as Japanese tunes; it was said that her "demure, geisha-girl" appearance belied her belting musical style.

In 1966, she married Herb McDonald, a Las Vegas executive, and put aside her successful career to devote more time to her family.

Masako was not only appreciat-

ed for her musical talents, but also for her untiring willingness to help those in need and the generosity of her spirit. Ironically, it was while she was attempting to help traffic accident victims on a road in Richfield, Utah that she herself was fatally struck down by a speeding truck. McDonald waited by her bedside at the Latter-day Saints Hospital, hoping she would recover. But, she died later that evening. Said her husband, "She was doing what she did best — helping someone."

In addition to her husband, Masako is survived by a daughter, Kimberly McDonald; father, Stanley Yoshimoto; sister Joanne Yamada; and brothers Calvin and Rodney Yoshimoto and many nieces and nephews. ■

**"Cappy" Ozaki, Hawaii AJA League icon**

HONOLULU—Harold "Cappy" Ozaki, 82, coach and general manager during the golden age of AJA baseball in Hawaii, died at his home on Sept. 11.

Ozaki was a shortstop and outfielder for the Ikeda Music Store team and Moiliili Athletic Club before World War II, and manager of the McCully team in the Senior AJA League after the war. He was affiliated with the AJA state baseball tournament for 60 years and served as its finance director.

Ozaki's love of baseball began as a youngster, not having enough money for admission to the games at the Honolulu Stadium, he and friends would scale the fence. "The custodian would spot us ... But he never caught any of us," he once said in an interview with the Honolulu Advertiser.

Considered an "icon" by University of Hawaii baseball coach Les Murakami, Okazaki was also successful businessman, retired owner of Cappy Ozaki Plumbing Company. Murakami said his key to success to organization; his eldest son, Ross, also said that his dad was always very organized. Ozaki's athletic interests included bowling and softball, and in his youth he played quarterback and linebacker for the Moiliili Blues in the 130-lb. football division, although he weighed only 106 lbs.

Ozaki was a 1934 graduate of McKinley High. During the war he served with the U.S. Corps of engineers in Hawaii. In addition to son Ross, he is survived by sons Harold Jr., and Scott, daughter Susan, brother Robert Sr., and three grandchildren. ■

**Obituaries**

All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Akashi, Sumie, 80, Rosemead, Aug. 26;** survived by daughter Margaret Mayumi; brother Rev. Kunio Higashida; sister Hanaka Yoshihara; 4 sisters-in-law.

**Amioka, Lilian Chikako, 57, Sacramento, Aug. 24;** survived by sons James and Mark; brothers Henry Yoshikawa and his wife Hisako and John Yoshikawa and his wife Elaine; sisters Katsuko Yoshikawa, Fukiko Yoshikawa and Kimiko and her husband Eddie Nakahara; father-in-law Isamu; mother-in-law Saiko.

**Doi, Katsumi, 81, Acampo, Aug. 21, Sacramento-born;** survived by wife Tokiko; daughters Judy Murase and Phyllis and their husbands; son Steven; 9 gc.

**Enomoto, Shigeru, 70, San Francisco, Aug. 28;** survived by sister Kyoko Obata (Wash., D.C.).

**Fujitaki, Tom Takashi, 71, San Gabriel, Aug. 21;** survived by daughters Susan Reiko and her husband Jim Howe and Alice Megumi and her husband Roderick Fong; sister Kyoko Nakamuro; 4 gc.

**Gomes, Sachiko Kawano, 73, Sacramento, Aug. 31, Oakland-born;** survived by sons Bruce Teramoto and Rick Gomes; daughters Kiri Poe and Judy Oto; nephew Robert; niece Ely Lee; sister-in-law Mary Kawano; 6gc, 19gc.

**Haraguchi, Eilchi David, 86, Weiser, Ore., Aug. 24;** Japan-educated; survived by wife Matsuye; sisters Fumiko Kato (Oregon) and Yoneko Mihara (Japan); son Kenneth and his wife Bonnie (Oregon); 2 gc.

**Hashioka, Edwin Taro, 81, Harvard, Ill., Aug. 18, Fowler-born;** survived by sons Christopher and Robert; daughter Ruth; brothers Henry and Roy; sister Nobuko; 5 gc.; predeceased by wife Pauline.

**Iitano, Joe Yoshiaki, 73, Homedale, Ore., July 9;** survived by wife Chitose; sons Daniel and Michael (Moscow); daughter Jacqueline; brothers Tucker and his wife Louise, John and his wife Shirley, Frank and his wife Barbara; sisters Mary Tanikuni and her husband Frank, Lois Kondo and Joyce Tom and her husband Ben.

**Iizuka, Takuji Jack, 76, Torrance, Sept. 1, Gardena-resident;** survived by wife Mitsuko; son Richard and his wife Teresa; daughter Joanne Ogino and her husband Graig; brother Masami and his wife Tomi; sister Yoshi Yonekura; brother-in-law Tosh Hashimoto and his wife Arny; sister-in-law Ruby Iizuka; 2 gc.

**Kaldshiba, Taeko, Sacramento, Aug. 19;** survived by husband George; sons Alfred and David.

**Matsunaga, Takaji "Kyu", 75, El Cerrito, Aug. 24;** survived by daughter Kumiko Kuroiwa; sisters Ann Fujikawa, Dorothy Fujita, Jan Ishisaki and Hiroko Taniguchi; brother Yoshi.

**Mayeda, George Ichiro, 81, Los Angeles, Aug. 16;** survived by wife Tsuneko; son David Kunio; sister Sally Sadako and her husband William Hashimoto; 3 gc.

**Matsuda, John Yoshio, 72, San Martin, Aug. 21;** survived by wife Mitsuko; son Kelly Yoshimi; daughter Nadine and her husband John Foley; brothers George and Bill; sisters Mabel Young, Josie, Sumi and Fannie; 3 gc.

**Miyao, Elyse, 79, Aug. 12;** survived by husband Walter; son Lloyd and his wife Naeko, Ross and his wife Corinne and Dean; daughters Carolyn Moore and her husband James and Charlotte and her husband Charles; 6 gc.

**Miyamasu, Joseph Sutekichi, 96, Hacienda Heights, Aug. 24, Hiroshima-born;** survived by son Robert Kazuto and his wife Mary (Ohio); daughters Ruth Asako Goo and her husband Winston, and Jean Yoshie Kawada and her husband Tom; brother Robert Yoshito and his wife Eliza (Hawaii); sister Hamet Shizue Bowen (Hawaii); 14 gc., 99gc.

**Muranaga, Yoshitaro, 82, Foster City, Aug. 25;** survived by wife Mitsue; sons Keiji, Eitaro and Shigemichi and their wives; daughter Yoshimi Yamaguchi; 7 gc, 3 gc.

**Nakamura, Harley Mitsugi, 84, Fowler, Aug. 18;** survived by wife Shizuye; son Tad Tadashi and his wife Gail Hanu; daughter Marlene Chiyeko Okada and her husband Barry Utata; sister Faye Fumiko Namba; 4 gc.

**Nakamura, Fudiko, 70, Hollywood, Aug. 29;** survived by sons Morris and his wife Michi, Kane and his wife Cindy, and Robert; daughter Frances; sister Aiko Kobata and her husband Tamotsu; brothers Yoshito and his wife Yoshiko

and Mitsugi Yamashita (all of Japan); brother-in-law Yoshio and his wife Yoshiko; 2 gc.

**Nakamura, Harley Mitsugi, 84, Fowler, Aug. 18;** survived by wife Shizuye; son Tad Tadashi and his wife Gail Hanu; daughter Marlene Chiyeko Okada and her husband Barry Utata; sister Faye Fumiko Namba; 4 gc.

**Nakawatase, Helen Natsuye, 84, Aug. 23, widow of the late Seichi Nakawatase;** survived by siblings Masanori Oyama, Alice Oyama, Viola Iguchi and Harry Oyama.

**Nakayama, Yone, 81, San Mateo, Sept. 1, San Francisco-born;** survived by sisters Kyo Kizazawa and June Eijima and her husband Warren; dear friend Ruth, Fujiwara; 3 nephews, 2 nieces.

**Nishi, Elsa Reiko, 68, Los Angeles, Aug. 24;** survived by son Tad Kato; brothers Harry and Richard and Bob Ito; sister Hazel Ito (all of San Diego).

*This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries for your newspaper are welcome. "Death Notices," which appear in a timely manner at request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$15 per column inch. Text is reworded as needed.*

**Nishikawa, Michiye, 79, San Jose, Aug. 29;** survived by sons Tetsuo Ted and his wife Nobie and Kenji and his wife Sylvia; daughters Jean Sakamoto and her husband Saburo, Susie Elder, Eleanor Satow and her husband Dean and Linda Nishikawa; 8 gc., 1 gc.

**Nishimoto, Ben T., 63, Renton, Wash., June 28;** survived by wife Michiyo; son Clayton (Hawaii); daughters Colleen, Cynthia Fleming and her husband Pat, Christy Henderson and her husband Stephen and Eric; brothers Yoshi and his wife Alice and Frank and his wife Irene; sisters Dorothy Nakagawa and her husband Tak, Nancy Fujikawa and her husband June, Jean Uchida and her husband Shig and Karen Ishino and her husband Ed; mother Shizuka; 10 gc.

**Nishitarumizu, Ayako, 73, Los Angeles, Aug. 21;** survived by husband Kaoru; son Ray; daughters Kary and Shirley; brothers Hideo Kawahira (Salinas) and Isamu Kawahira; sister Michiko Takemoto; 4 gc.

**Okamura, Saburo, 80, Fresno, Aug. 26;** survived by wife Gloria; sons Dennis (Sacramento) and Robert (Poway); sister Harumi Hirabayashi (Lindsey); sister-in-law Sonoye (Denver); 4 gc.

**Okauchi, Waka, 64, Los Angeles, Aug. 28, Japan-born;** survived by husband George; son Jason Yui; brother-in-law Kooji and his wife Chieko; 1 brother and 2 sisters both of Japan; many nieces and nephews.

**Oshiyama, Florence Tsuyako, 79, Sun Valley, Sept. 3, Hawaii-born;** survived by sons Bob and Ken; 2 gc.; many other relatives.

**Ota, Hsuo Joe, 87, Marysville, Aug. 26;** survived by son Clem; daughter Ellen Lee.

**Oshita, Dan, 78, Aug. 25;** survived by his son and daughter; brother and sisters.

**Peterson, Sachiko Yoshimi, La Crescenta, Aug. 19;** survived by husband Richard; mother Ino Yoshimi; mother-in-law Mary Peterson.

**Sakashita, Eiji, 46, San Francisco, Sept. 3, Tokyo-born;** survived by wife Sumiko; daughter Makoto; mother Teruyo; father-in-law Seigo Uratsuka; mother-in-law Reiko Uratsuka.

**Sunada, Kenny Kazuaki, 59, Pasadena, Aug. 20;** survived by wife Judy; sons Craig and Kirk; parents Akira and Kiyomi; sister Nancy and her husband Richard Goto; brothers Frank and Roy and their wives.

**Suzuki, Patricia N., 73, Chicago, Ill., June 23;** survived by husband George; son Steven and his wife Lori; daughter Tracy; 2 gc.

**Taba, George Yoshito, 73, Los Angeles, Aug. 22;** survived by wife Yasuko; son Paul Hiroshi and his wife; daughter Grace Junko Taketa and her husband; sister Toshiko Miyata (Japan); brother James Shinji; sister-in-law Fumiko Takeshita; brothers-in-law Wakatsuki and Hirofumi Matsumura.

**Takahashi, Fumi, 78, Fresno, Aug. 30;** survived by daughters Beverly Ogata and Lori Sato and her husband Perry; sons Ronald and Richard and his wife Elsie; sister Kyoko Shintaku; 7 gc.

**Takahashi, Teruo, 83, Harbor City,**

Aug. 24; survived by wife Taruko; sons Dennis and Michael and their wives; daughters Joyce Hirakawa, Hedy Ito, Yoko Masukawa, Emma Fujiki, Sharon Chesire and Sandy Monge; brothers Toshio and Shigeru; sister Chizuko Arikawa; 2 brothers-in-law; 1 sister-in-law; 12 gc., 1 ggc.

**Takenaka, Natsuko Otomo, 77, Irvine, Aug. 24;** survived by husband Roy Taruko; daughters Carol and Gwen and her husband David Yokoyama; sister Mary Teruya; brother-in-law Katsuo Endo; 2 gc.

**Taketani, Shizue, 92, Gardena, services held on Sept. 1;** survived by sons Kenji and Hideo; daughters Fumiko Takahashi, Mitsuko Garcia and Janet Okubo; 9 gc., 11 ggc., 199gc.

**Tanaka James Matsuo, 71, San Francisco, Sept. 1;** survived by son John and his wife Doreen.

**Tomota, Lane Clark, 45, Gardena, Aug. 29, San Francisco-born;** survived by son Taz; mother Sachii; sister Debra and her husband Lew; brother Alan and his wife Ellen.

**Tsuchida, Genevieve Nobuko, 76, Sacramento, Aug. 18;** survived by husband Jack; sons Steven and Dennis and their wives; brother Roy; sister Michiko (Japan); 9gc.

**Umehara, Mitsuo, 78, San Mateo, Aug. 25, born in Kochi Prefecture;** survived by wife Aiko; son Mike and his wife Sachiko; brother Issei and his wife Mineko (both of Japan); 2 gc.

**Yamano, Shige, 102, Gilroy, Aug. 28, Wakayama-born,** survived by son William; daughters Misa and her husband Sam Shioetsuka and Helen and her husband Rinks Sano; 16 gc., 69gc.

**Yamauchi, Yulko, 72, West Hills, Aug. 20;** survived by sons Rodney Yukio and Randall Tadao and his wife Coreth; brother Fred Masayuki; sisters Bette Yunko and her husband John Teruo and Peggy Kikue; 2 gc.

**Yamanouchi, Josie, Los Angeles, Aug. 2, Seattle born;** survived by daughter Kyoko; son Kenneth; daughter-in-law Cathie; 2 gc.

**Yamanishi, George Iwao, 76, Culver City, Sept. 1, Terminal Island-born;** survived by wife Sumako; son Kazuho and family; daughters Kay Hirschfeld and family, Moon Robert and family, May Malindinos and family, and Lisa.

**Yoneda, Minoru "Min", 69, Los Angeles, Aug. 21;** survived by wife Sakaye; sons Gary Tomio (Seattle), Robert Mitsuo and Kevin Jiro; daughter Gail; brother Kazuo; sisters Mary Hanuko Yagura (San Diego), Mitsuye Sadamitsu and Yukiyu; father-in-law Motoo Noritake; 4 sisters-in-law.

**Umemoto, Masaru "Mas", 78, Los Angeles, Sept. 1;** survived by sons Tom, Ted, Bobby and his wife Susan, and Jim and his wife Doris; daughter Cindy; sisters Kimiko Kishi and Kyoko Takeguma and her husband Hideo; many nieces and nephews; 10 gc., 2 ggc.

**Waki, Masako, 85, Los Angeles, Sept. 1, Seattle-born;** survived by son Tetsuo T. and his wife Michiko; daughters Junko Stewart and her husband Philip, Teruko Ho and her husband Gerald, and Yoshiko Tanioka and her husband Kirk; 6 gc., 5 ggc.



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## Kudos to the convention's youth program

**BY AMY H. MATSUMOTO**  
 Congratulations to the Philadelphia Chapter and all of the Eastern District Council for holding a successful convention. At this year's biennial JACL convention, students attended from all over the United States. Many of them were brought together for about a week to meet each other and "hang out." These youth/students ranged from Hapa, Nisei to Gosei. Some of these students attended because they were given the chance to intern or participate in the Oratorical Contest. Fortunately, they were able to participate in a new youth/student program called ID-4 Day. The aim of this new youth/student program is to focus on youth and student interest. Hopefully, this program will continue to benefit future leaders of the JACL.  
 This year's convention covered both youth and student interests

by informing them on how to get an internship as well as how to write a resume. Even though this is just the beginning, I hope that future JACL conventions will include workshops that emphasize active mentoring between current JACL leaders and future JACL leaders on the workings of the JACL. What better way for JACL's future leaders to learn about the mission and workings of the JACL than at the convention, where much of the business takes place. It will be important for future leaders to know what they are getting into and how to do the job, so when they step up to leadership positions, they will know exactly what the job entails and will be well qualified.  
 I feel that the ID-4 Day is well needed, along with the Youth/Student Conference. This increases the opportunities to obtain more knowledge about the JACL. ■

## Report shows APis had highest median income in 1997

WASHINGTON—1997 generally proved to be a fruitful year for Asians and Pacific Islanders, according to the Commerce Department's Census Bureau, which reported on September 24 that they had the highest median household income among the country's major race groups.  
 At \$45,249 in median income, APis amassed over \$5,000 more than their White counterparts who made \$38,972 for the year. African Americans polled the third highest at \$25,050, while households overseen by a person of Hispanic origin made \$26,628.  
 Though Asians and Pacific Islanders may've had a higher median income overall, the 3.17 persons which comprised the average API household made an estimated \$18,569 per member, whereas the 2.58 persons which comprised the average white household made comparatively more, an estimated \$20,093.

"Asians and Pacific Islanders as a group had the highest median household income in 1997 at \$45,249," said chief of the Census Bureau's Housing and Household Economics Statistics Division, Daniel Weinberg.  
 "However, this is the first time in six years that the income-per-household-member estimate of White households was higher than that of Asian and Pacific Islander households."  
 Other figures to come out of the report showed that APis were the only group that did not experience a statistically significant jump in median income between 1996 and 1997.  
 There was also a negligible difference in both the number (1.5 million) and percentage (14 percent) of Asians and Pacific Islanders who were poor between 1996 and 1997. Meanwhile, in 1997, there were 24.4 million Whites who were poor at a poverty

rate of 11 percent. African Americans showed 9.1 million in number and 26.5 percent. And Hispanics counted for 8.3 million of those who were poor at a rate of 27.1 percent.  
 API families who were poor in 1997 accounted for 244,000 and 10.2 percent; 5 million and 8.4 percent for White families; 2 million and 23.6 percent for African American families; and 1.7 million and 24.7 percent at the poverty line for Hispanic families.  
 The poverty line for a four-person family in 1997 was \$16,400 in annual income.  
 Where per capita income was concerned, Whites made approximately \$20,425, Asians and Pacific Islanders made \$18,226, African Americans made \$12,351 and Hispanics made \$10,773.  
 All data cited here are taken from the March 1998 Current Population Survey and are subject to sampling variability and error. ■

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### Holiday Cheer Thanks All Its 1997 Donors

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Thank you for your continued support to these often times forgotten Japanese Americans.

*Amy Tambara*  
 Chairperson

### 1998 ESCORTED TANAKA TOURS

EAST COAST/FALL FOLIAGE (11 days) OCT 4  
 JAPAN AUTUMN ADVENTURE (11 days) OCT 12  
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 NIKKEI SO. CARIBBEAN CRUISE (benefit for JCCNC, 8 days) NOV 14

### 1999 ESCORTED TANAKA TOURS

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 CANADIAN ROCKIES/VICTORIA TOUR (Banff, Lake Louise, 8 days) JUNE  
 CRYSTAL CRUISE PANAMA CANAL (Book early for group rate, 11 days) SEP 16  
 BEST OF HOKKAIDO & TOHOKU SEP  
 JAPAN AUTUMN ADVENTURE OCT  
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 Sydney, Melbourne, Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Auckland, Rotorua, Christchurch, Queenstown  
 SOUTH AMERICA JAPANESE HERITAGE TOUR Nov. 9-18  
 Argentina - Buenos Aires, Tango Show  
 Brazil - Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo & Buenos Aires  
 Meet local Japanese in Sao Paulo & Buenos Aires. Optional extension to Peru.  
 WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN HOLIDAY CRUISE Nov 19-Dec 3  
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 SPACE LIMITED. HOLLAND AMERICAN CRUISE  
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### 1999 TOUR SCHEDULE

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 TOHOKU SPRING HOLIDAY TOUR Apr 30  
 MEXICO WEEKEND HOLIDAY CRUISE May  
 AMERICAN HERITAGE TOUR May  
 ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE Jun 7  
 CANADIAN ROCKIES HOLIDAY TOUR Jun  
 GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN HOLIDAY TOUR Jun  
 NORTHERN NATIONAL PARKS HOLIDAY TOUR Aug  
 EUROPEAN CAPITALS HOLIDAY CRUISE Aug 23  
 ITALY HOLIDAY TOUR Sep  
 HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR Sep  
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### 1998 GROUP TOURS

13. Canada/New England Fall Foliage	10/6-10/17	Phyllis Murakawa	2,019
14. Japan Ura-Nihon Tour	10/6-10/16	Galen Murakawa	2,895
15. Spain & Portugal, Tour (Wait List)	10/9-10/22	Bill Sakurai	1,868
16. Florida plus Key West (Wait List)	10/11-10/18	R&N Takeda	1,475
17. Okinawa/Kyushu Special Tour	10/12-10/21	Michi Ishii	2,895
18. Tennessee/Branson/Kentucky	10/17-10/25		1,695
19. Japan Basic Fall Foliage Tour	10/19-10/28	Toy Kanegai	2,895
20. Branson Ozark Christmas Tour	11/27-12/2		1,099

### 1999 GROUP TOURS

1. Copper Canyon Adventure	Mar.	TBA	\$1,679
2. Georgia/South Carolina	Mar.	TBA	
3. Okinawa & Southern Honshu Sakura Tour	4/9-4/22	Bill Sakurai	3,265
4. Super China 12 days	4/20-5/1	George Kanegai	2,595
5. Music Cities	4/11-4/19	TBA	1,739
6. Washington D.C. Cherry Blossom Tour	4/10-4/19	Yuki Sato	1,669
7. Scotland/England/Wales	4/29-5/7	Phyllis Murakawa	1,999
8. Tohoku Tour	4/26-5/8	Ray Ishii	
9. Kyoto Gion Matsuri	5/13-	Tracy Taguchi	
10. China Yangtze River Cruise & Japan	5/27-6/13	Kumpai Sakaniwa	2,995
11. Ozarks/Branson Show Tour	5/28-6/3	TBA	
12. Great Tour of Texas	5/22-5/29	Roy Takeda	1,379
13. Basic Europe	June	TBA	
14. Canadian Rockies	6/20-6/27	TBA	1,749
15. Pacific Northwest	6/26-7/3	Michi Ishii	1,627
16. Japan Summer Tour	6/21-	Ray Ishii	
17. Alaska Discovery/Land & Cruise	6/29-7/5	Yuki Sato	
18. Hawaii Islands Cruise (Early Book Disc 12/4/98)	6/12-6/19	Bill Sakurai	from 1,993
19. Japan Aomori Nebuta Matsuri	7/29-	Tracy Taguchi	
20. Japan Summer Festivities & Folk Dances	8/4-	Tracy Taguchi	
21. Japan Festival/Kazeno Bon & Nagano	8/30-	Tracy Taguchi	
22. China Fall Tour	9/29-10/10	TBA	2,595
23. Eastern Canada/Nova Scotia Fall Foliage	9/15-9/29	Bill Sakurai	2,029
24. Australian Adventure/New Zealand	9/15-10/5	Phyllis Murakawa	3,309
25. Japan Hokkaido Tour	9/22	Galen Murakawa	
26. Great Trains of Europe	9/23-10/5	Toy Kanegai	3,512
27. Autumn Beauty of New England	10/2-10/9	Roy Takeda	1,639
28. Japan Alps	9/13	Ray Ishii	
29. Japan Takayama Matsuri	10/4-	Yuki Sato	
30. Japan Fall Foliage	10/25	Ray Ishii	
31. Japan Autumn Festivals	10/14-	Tracy Taguchi	
32. Japan Chichibu Yo-Matsuri & Onsen	11/11-11/29	Toy Kanegai	
33. Ozarks/Branson Christmas Tour	12/1-12/6	George Kanegai	

Please call for booking of any unescorted individual tour for a detailed itinerary. Travel meetings are held on third Sunday of each month beginning at 1:00 p.m. at Felicia Mahood Center 11338 Santa Monica Blvd. in West Los Angeles.